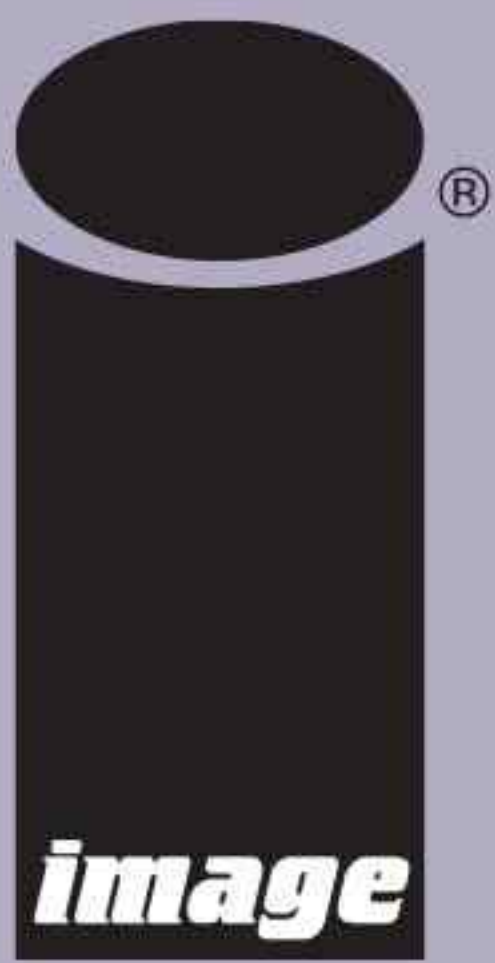




PROBABLY THE BEST SUPERHERO
COMIC BOOK IN THE UNIVERSE

18

INVINCIBLE



OFF TO
MARS!

KIRKMAN • OTTLEY • CRABTREE

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INVINCIBLE

TM

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RYAN OTTLEY
PENCILER & INKER

BILL CRABTREE
COLORIST

RUS WOOTON
LETTERER

CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN & CORY WALKER



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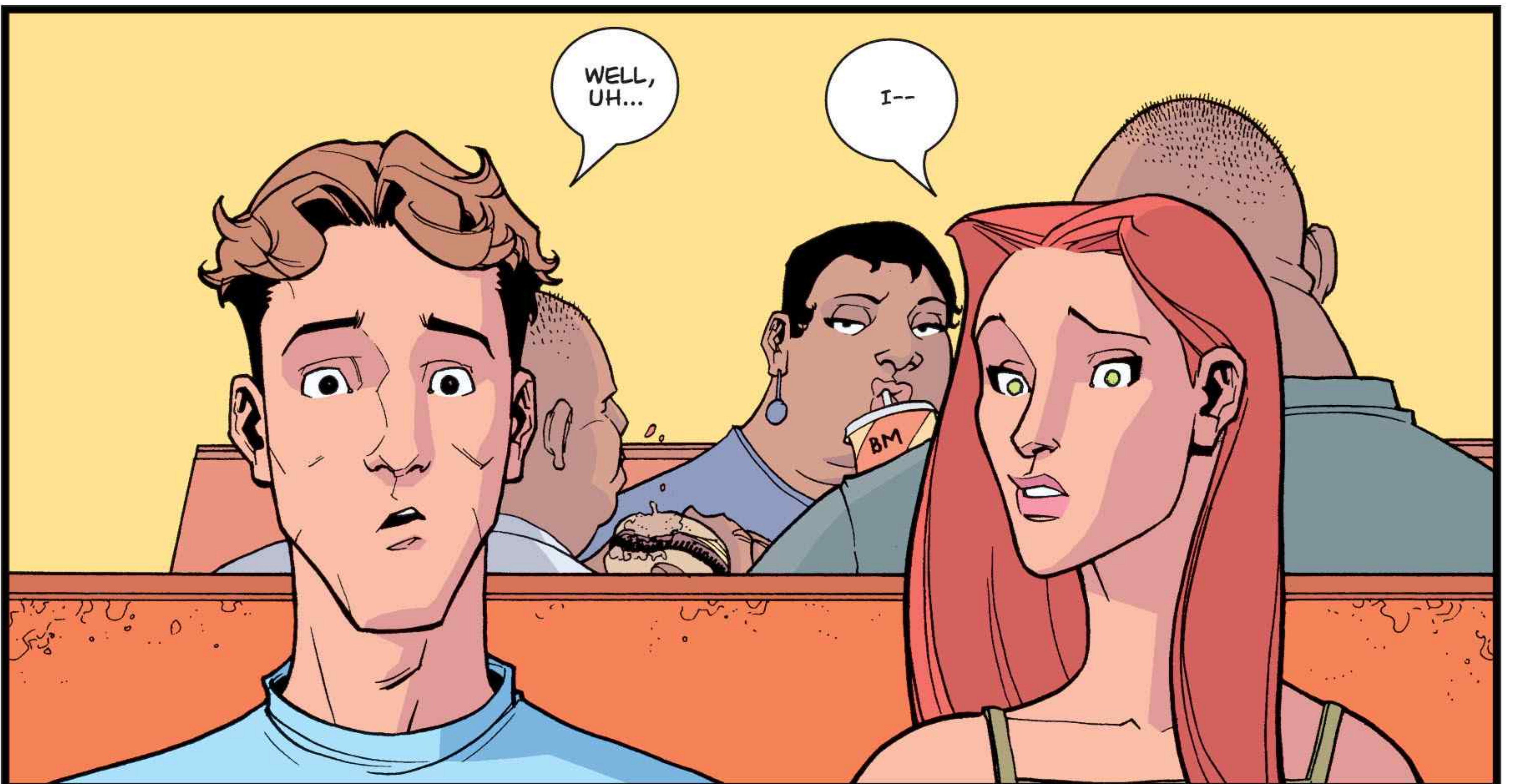
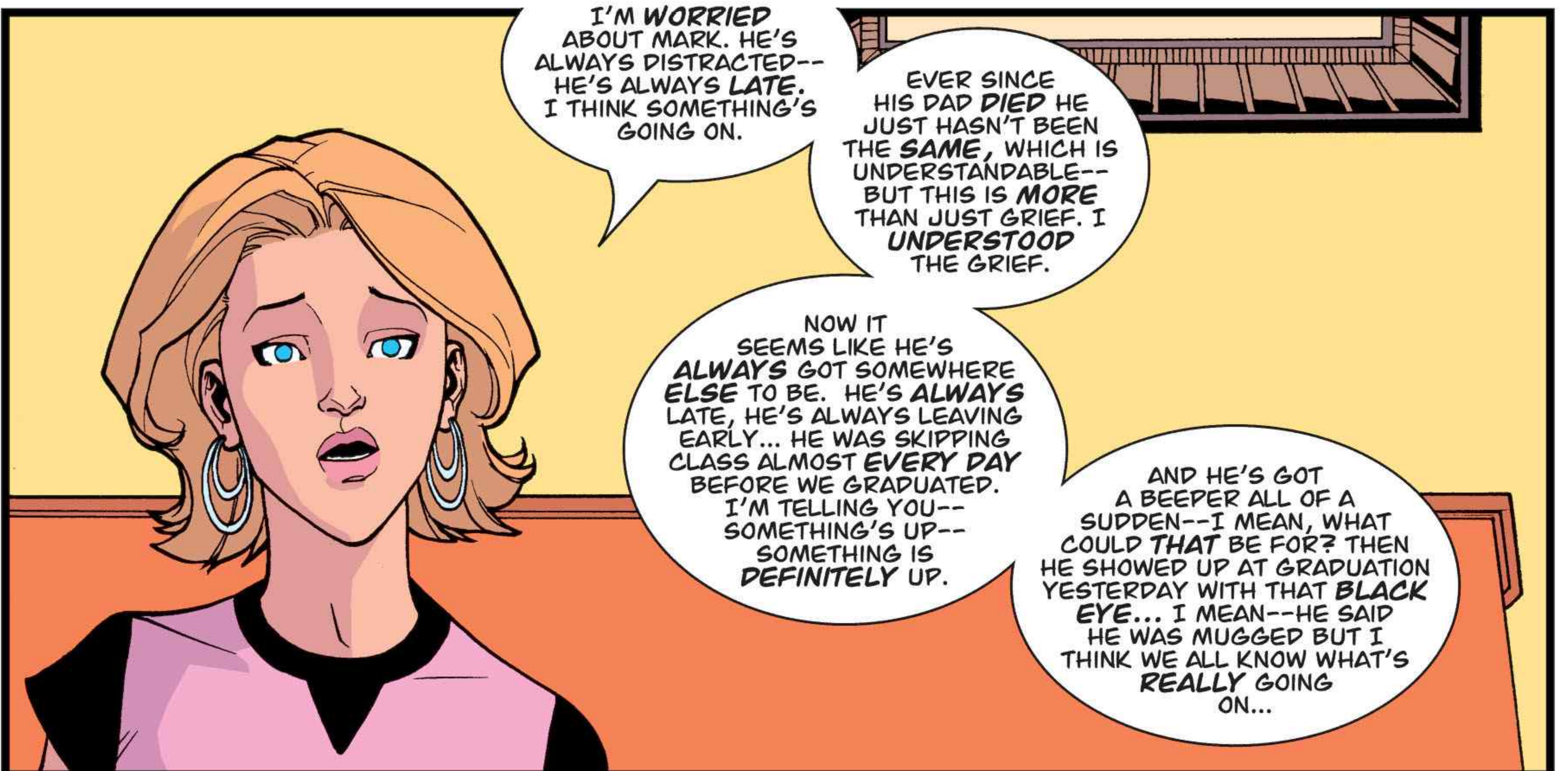
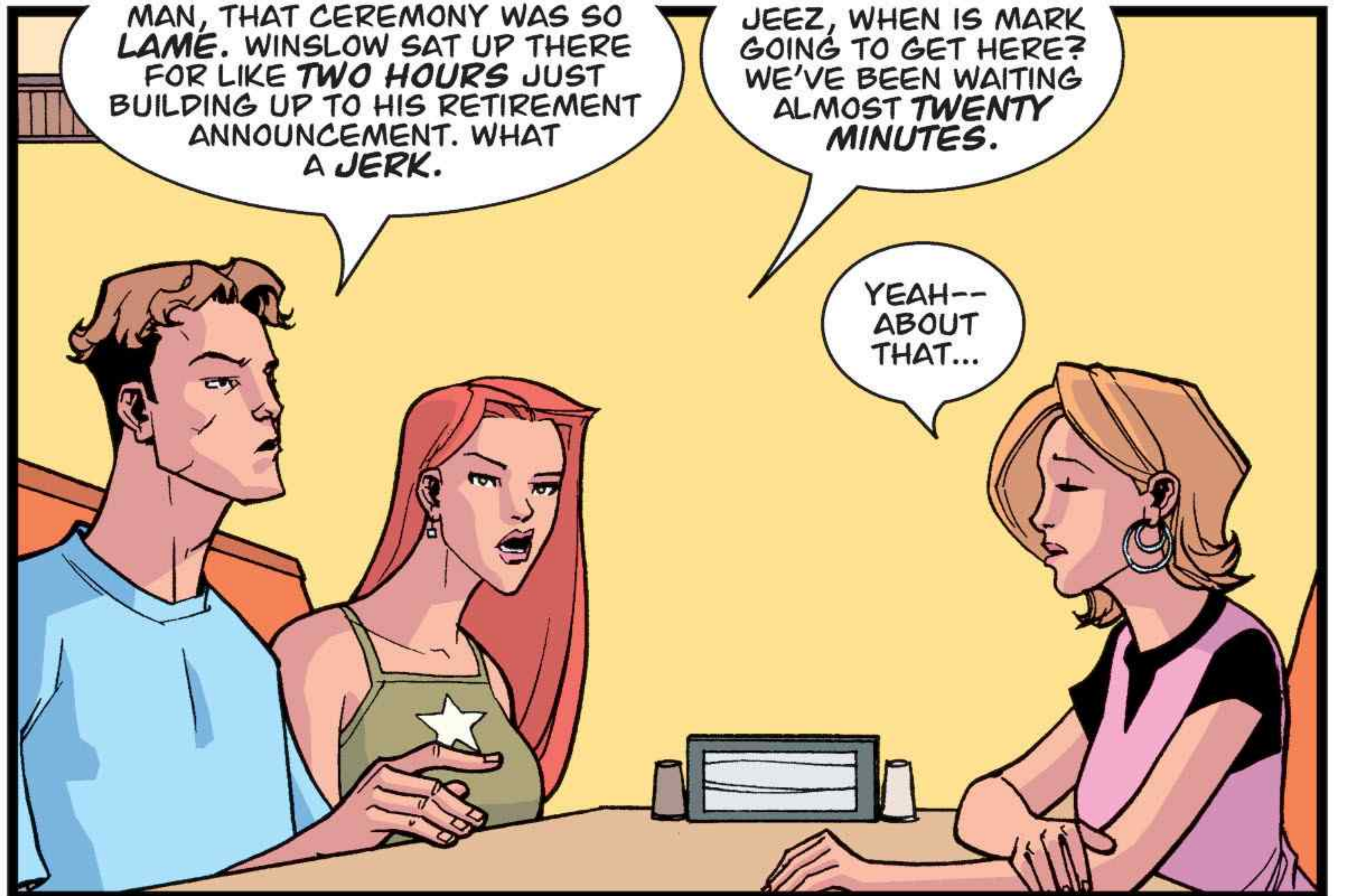


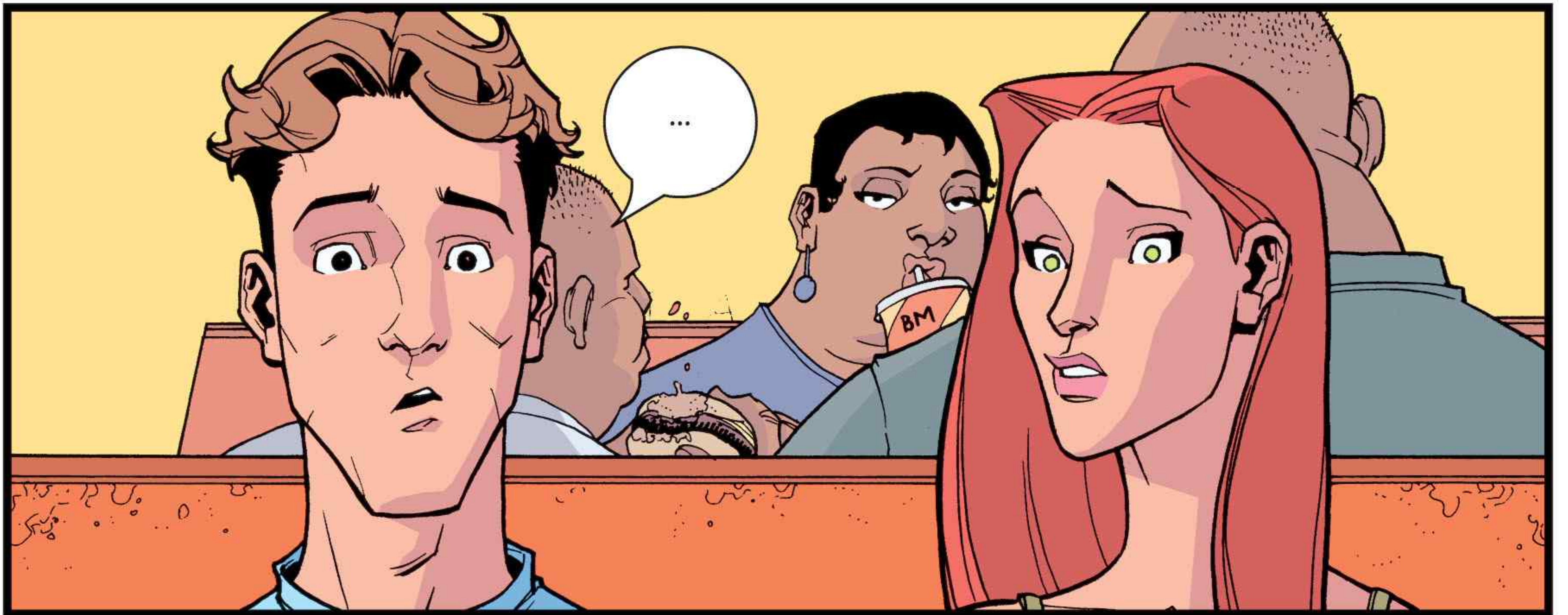
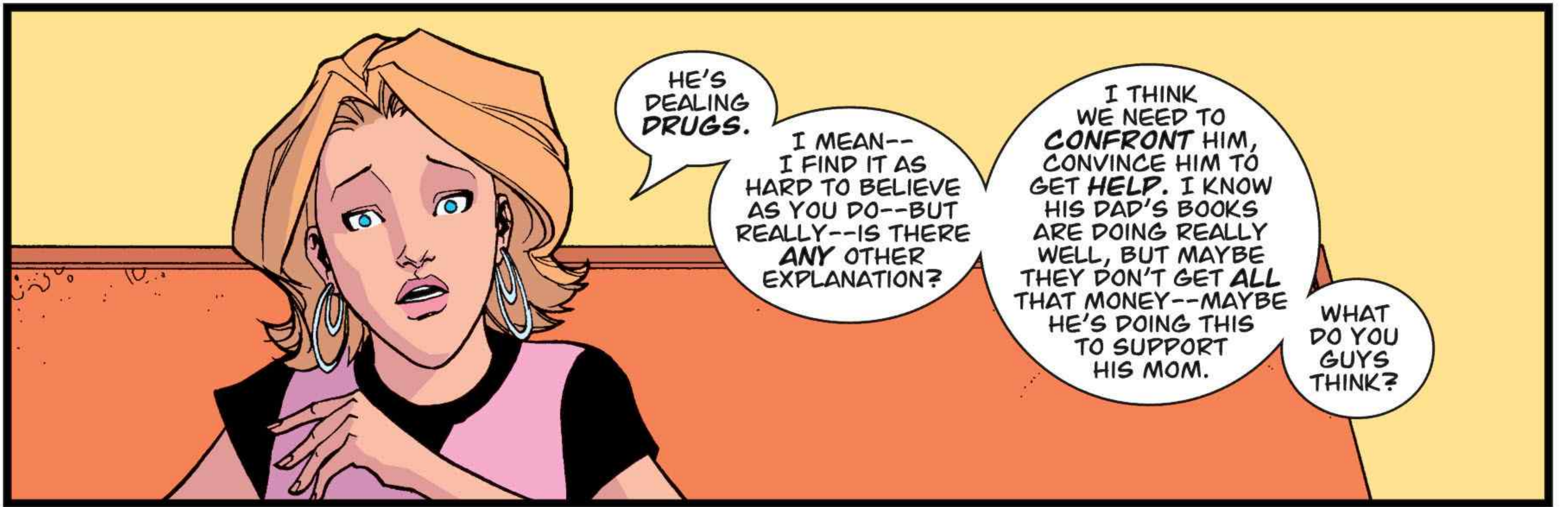
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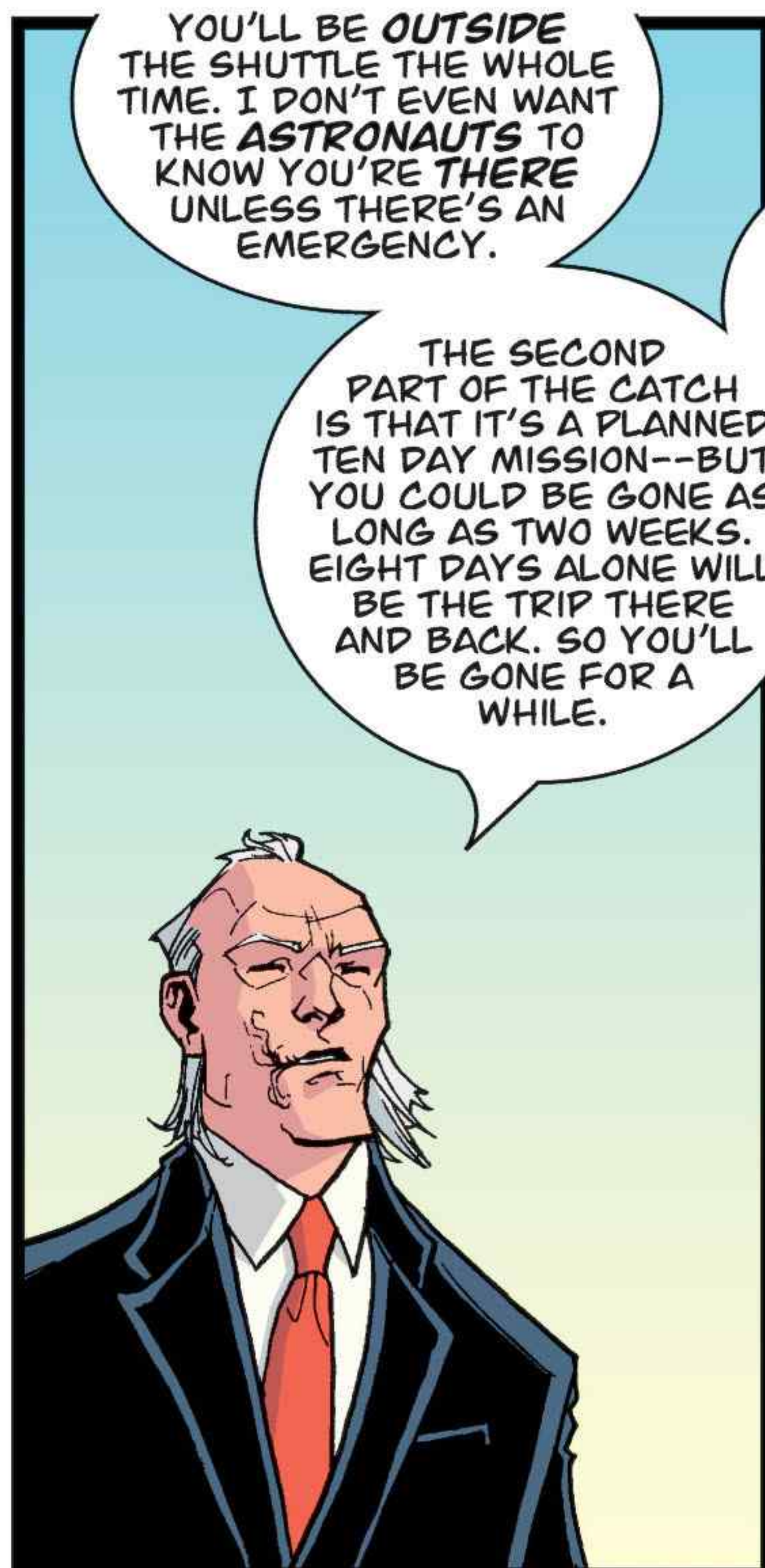
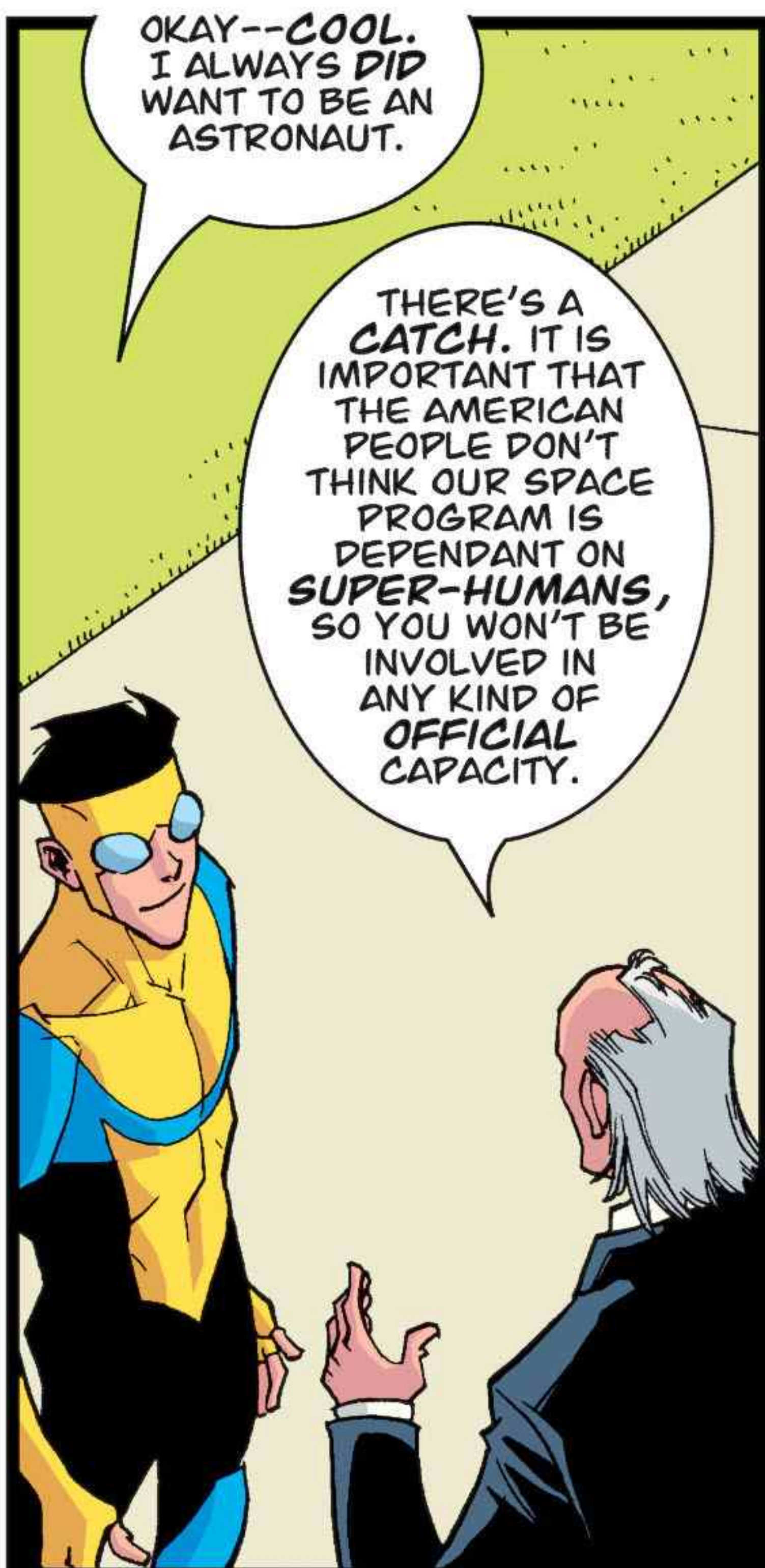
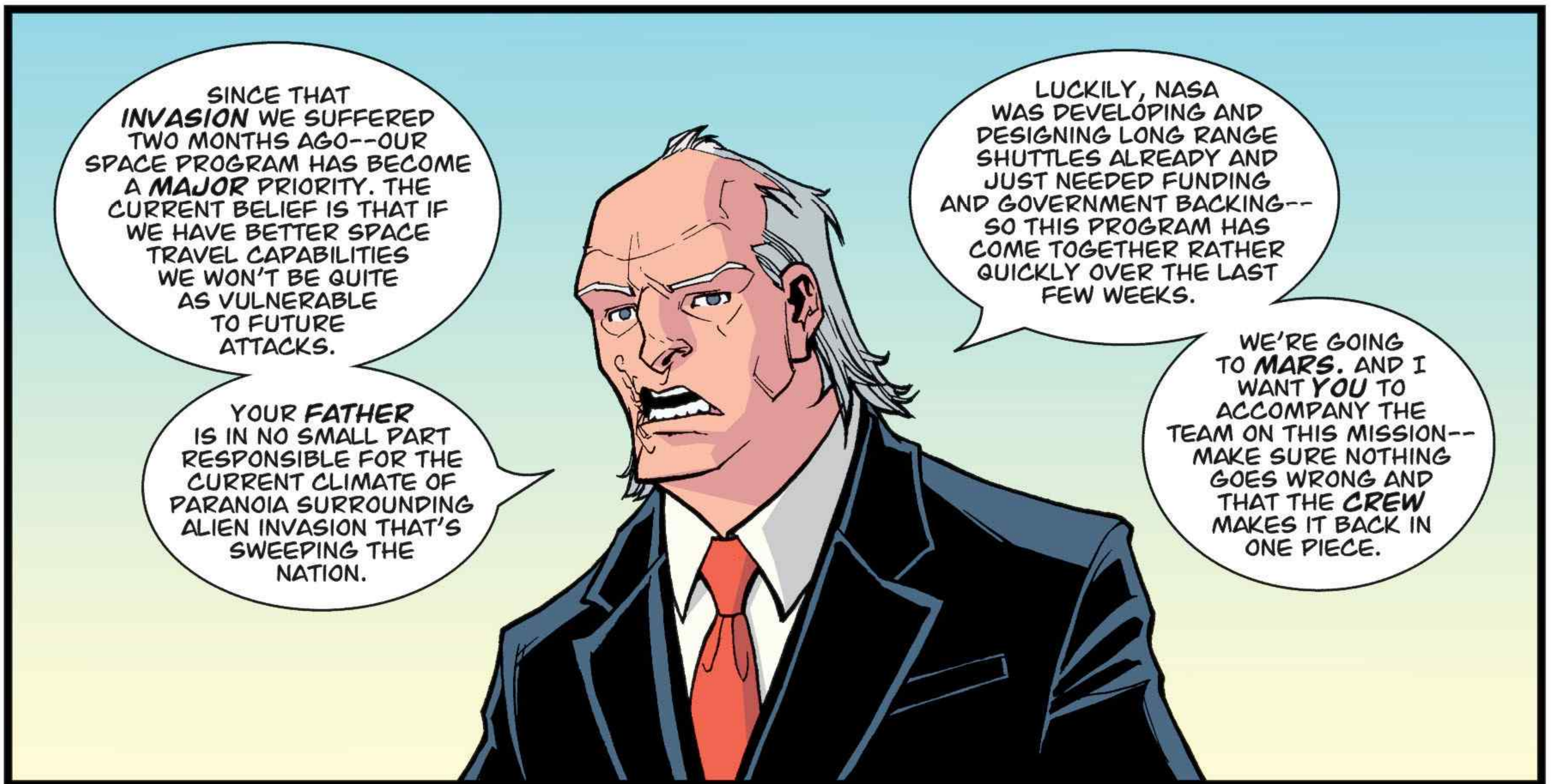
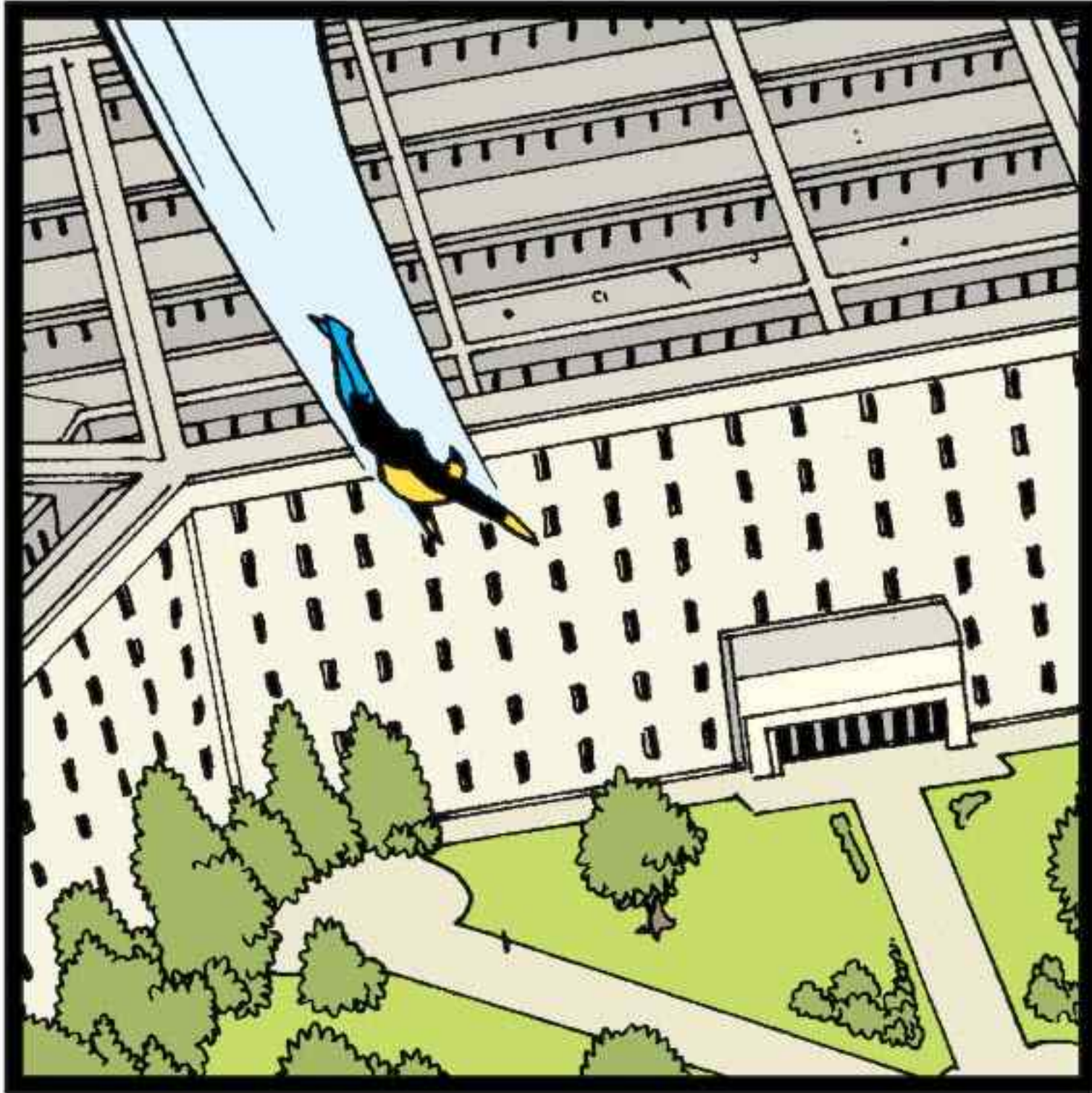
DON'T BE
SCARED--I'M
GOOD, I'M NOT TIRED
OR ANYTHING. YOU'VE
GOT SOME TIME, GATHER
UP YOUR THINGS, TOYS,
FAMILY PHOTOS--
WHATEVER.

JUST BE
QUICK ABOUT IT.
I DON'T KNOW
HOW LONG THIS
STUFF WILL HOLD
BEFORE IT STARTS
BREAKING
APART.

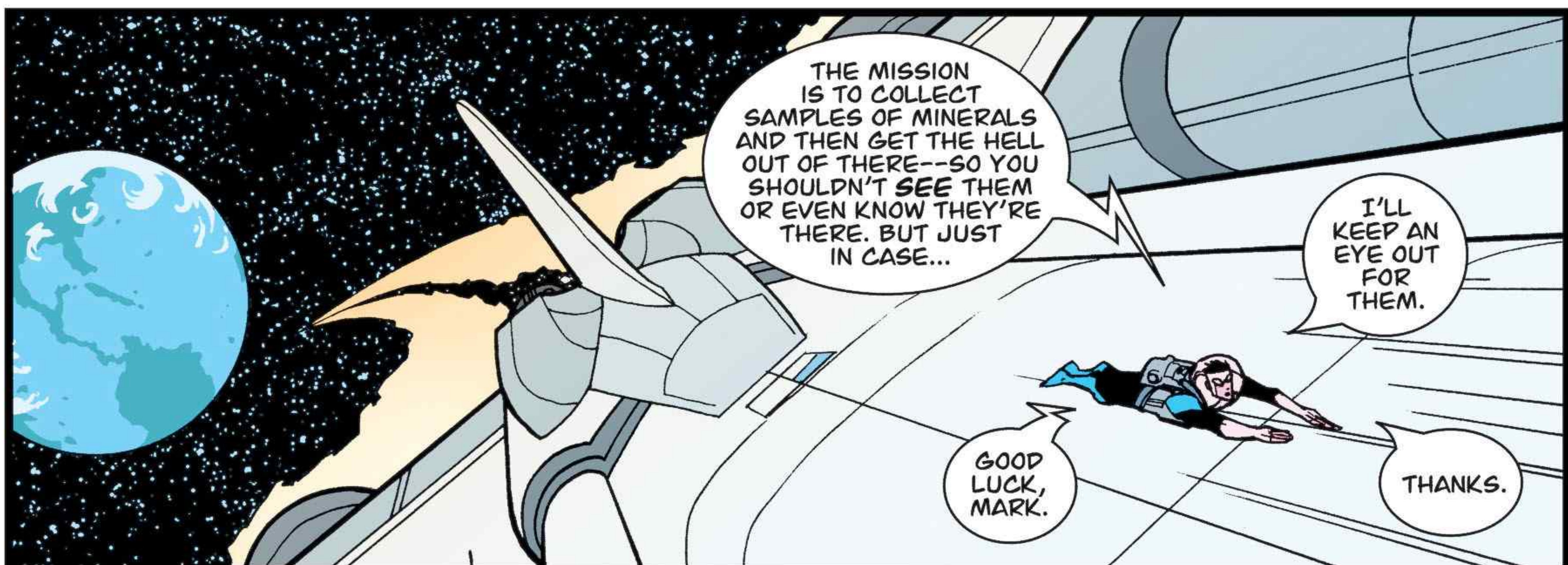
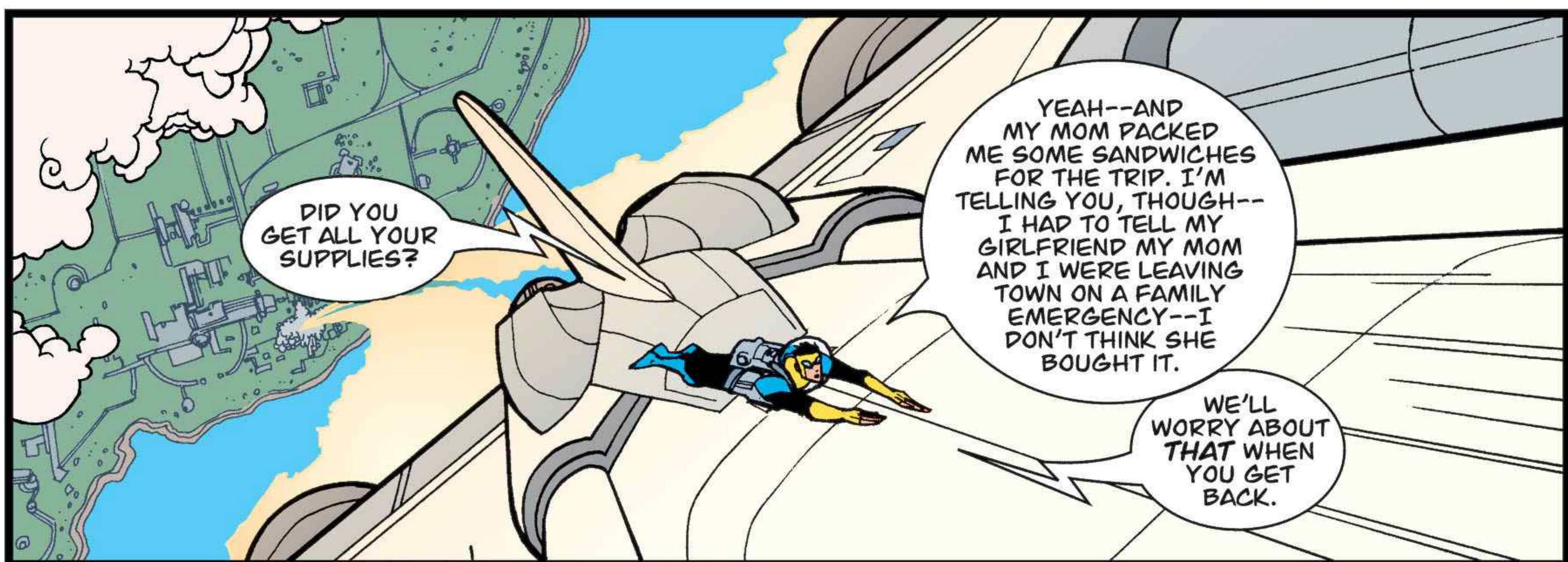
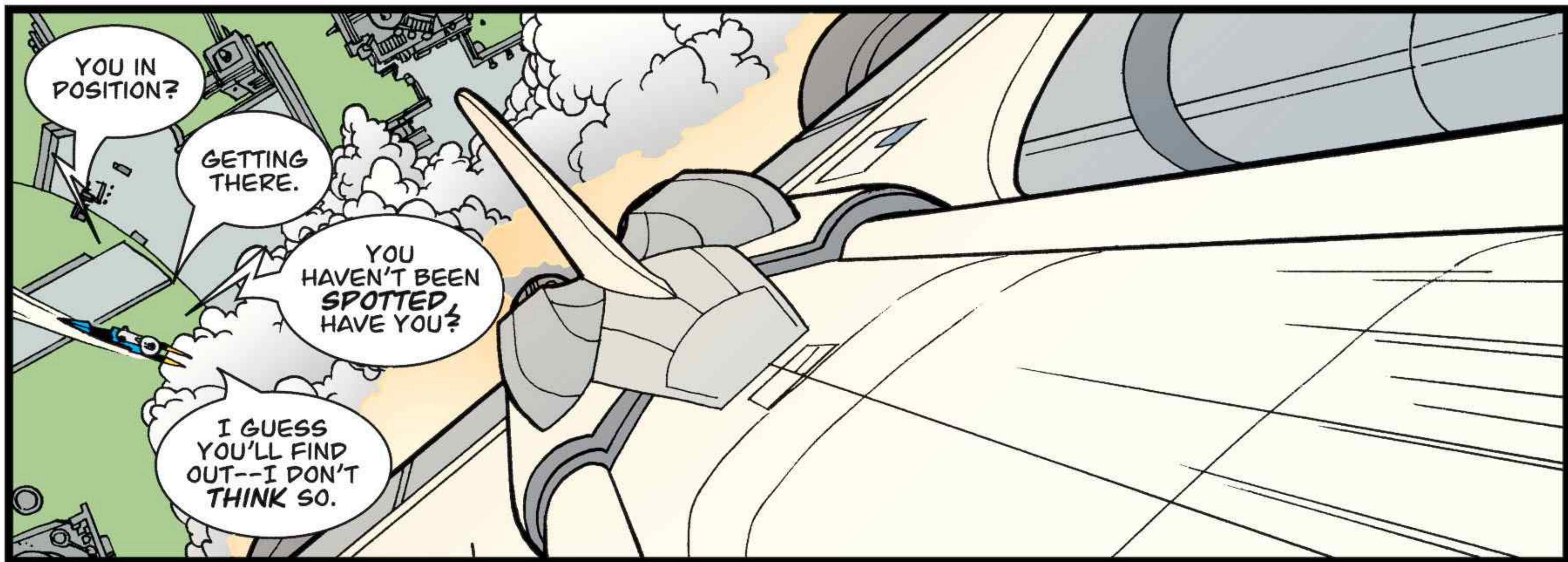


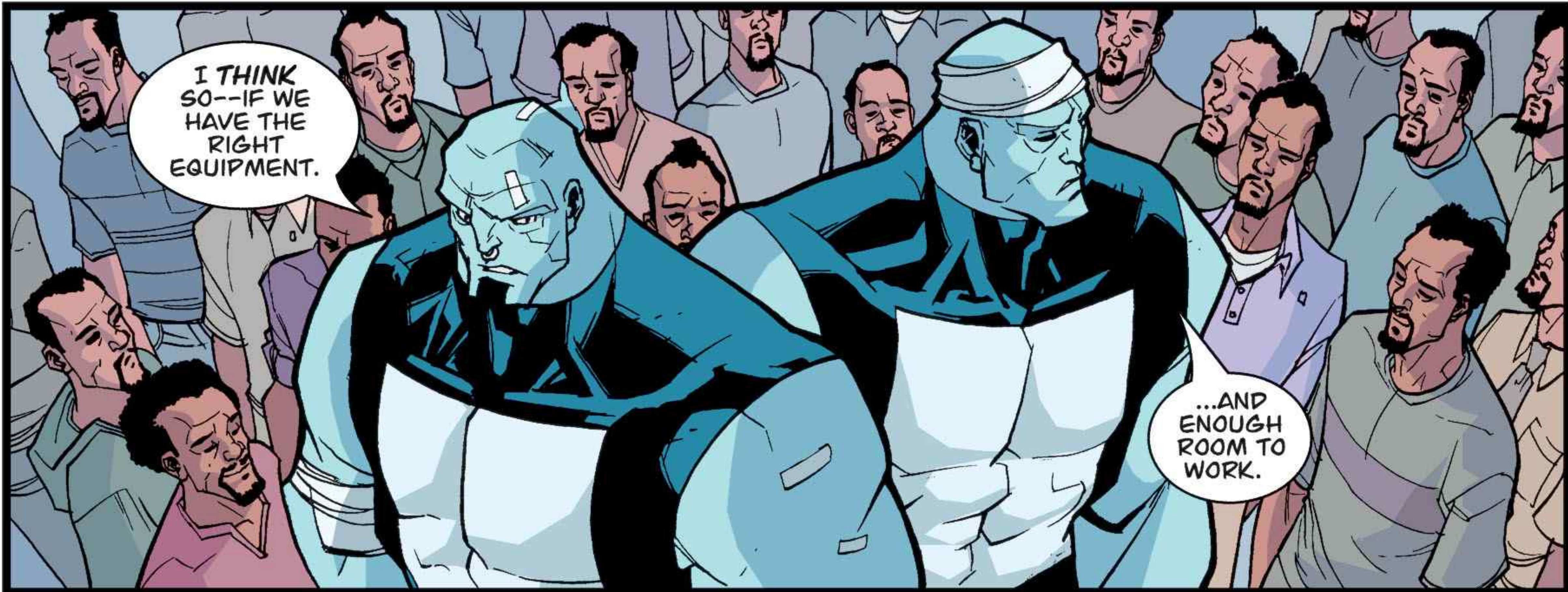
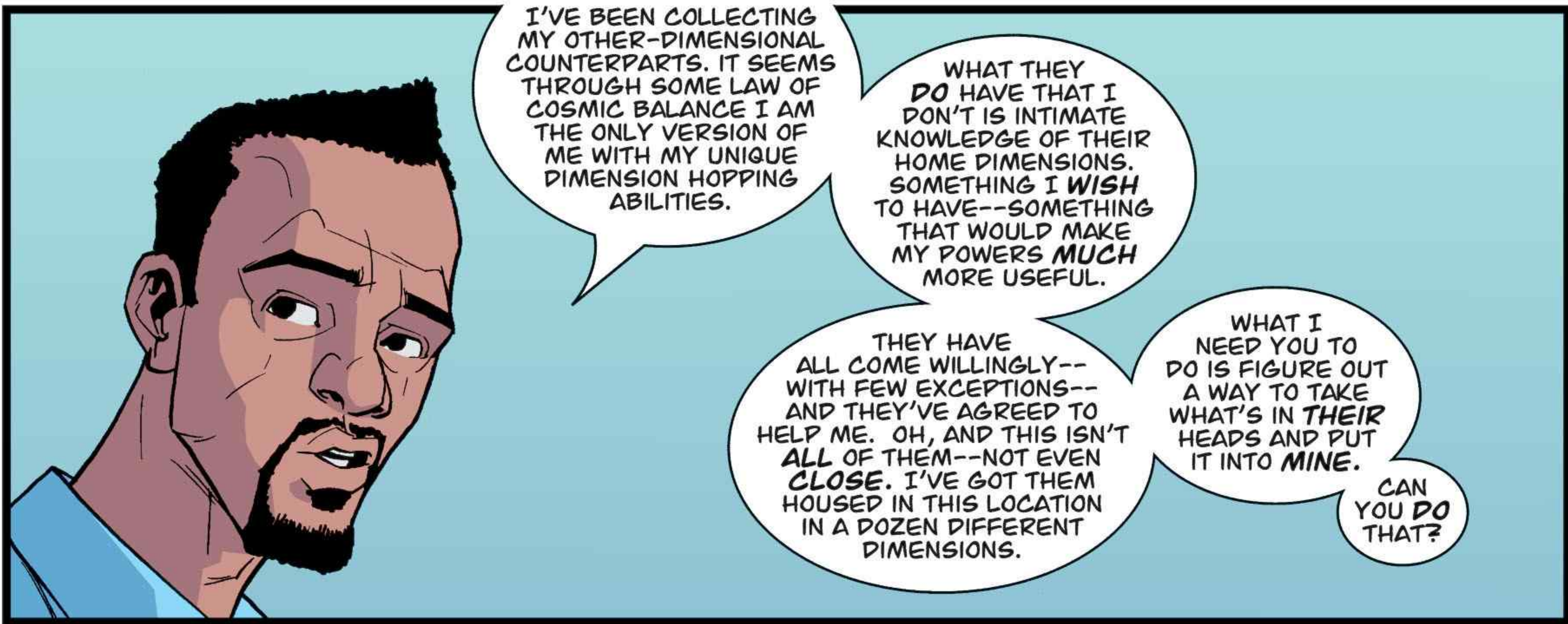


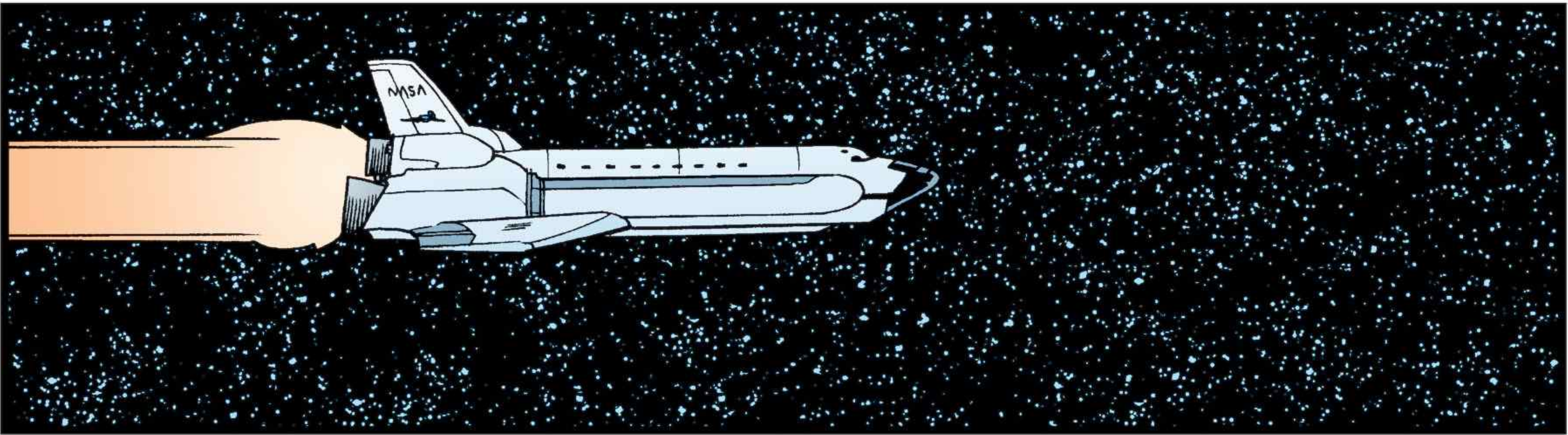
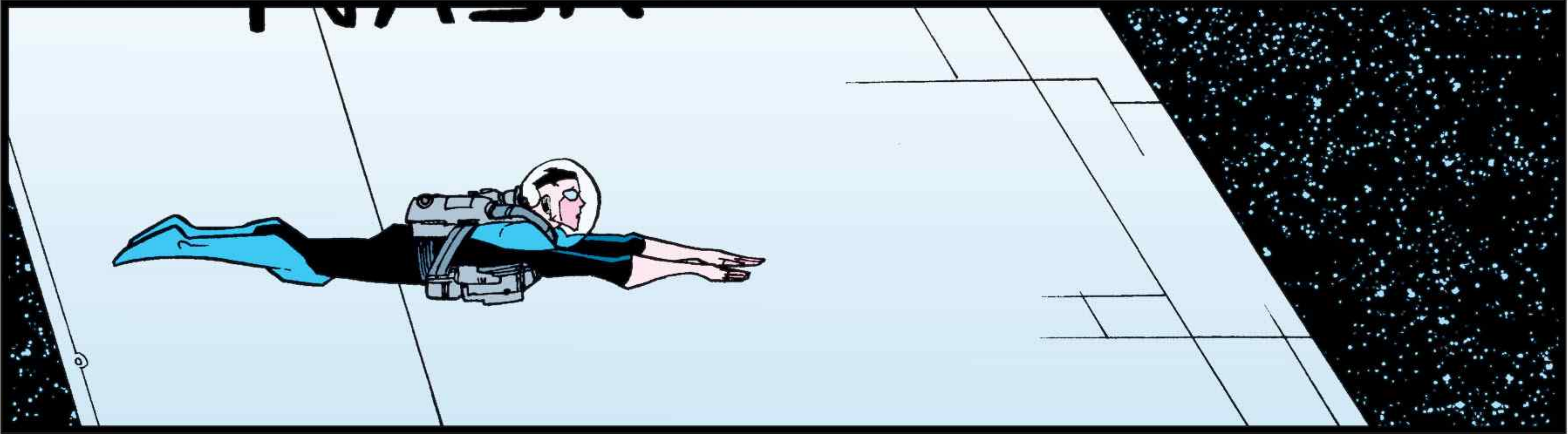
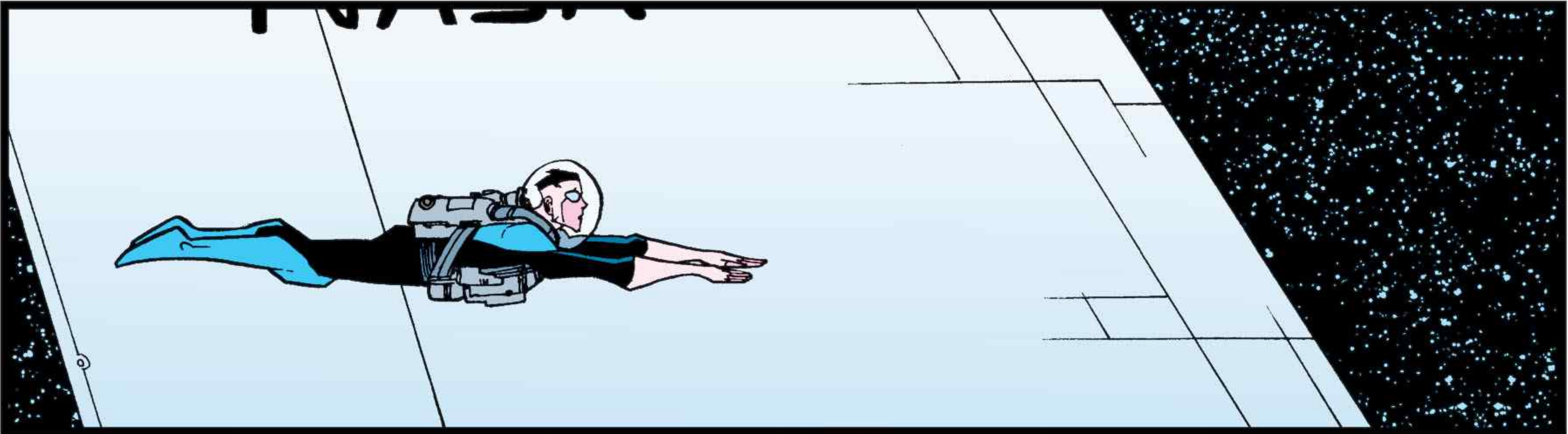
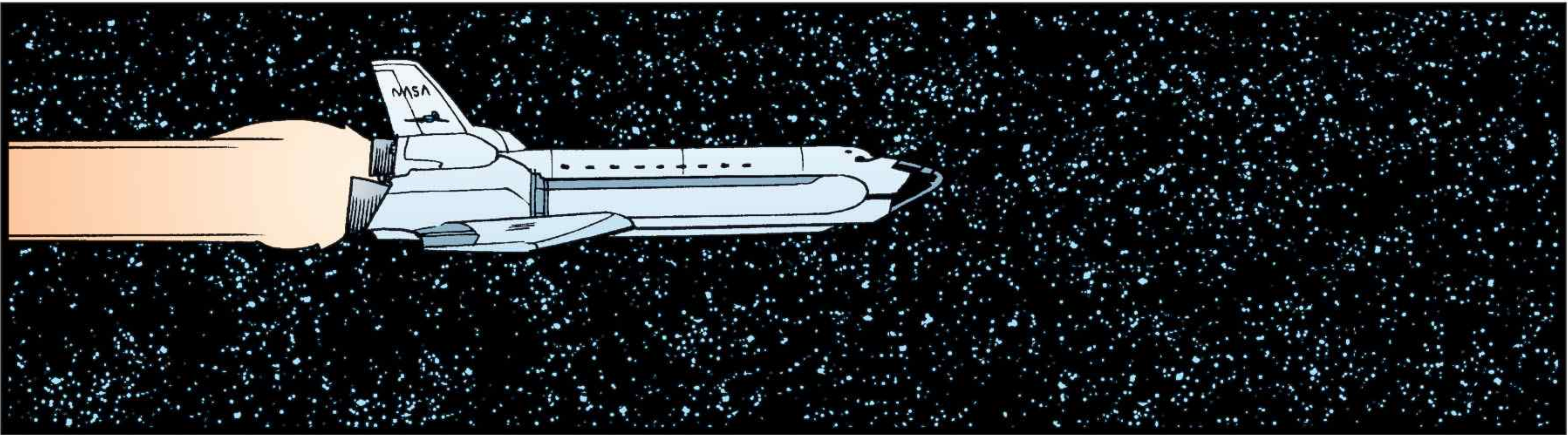


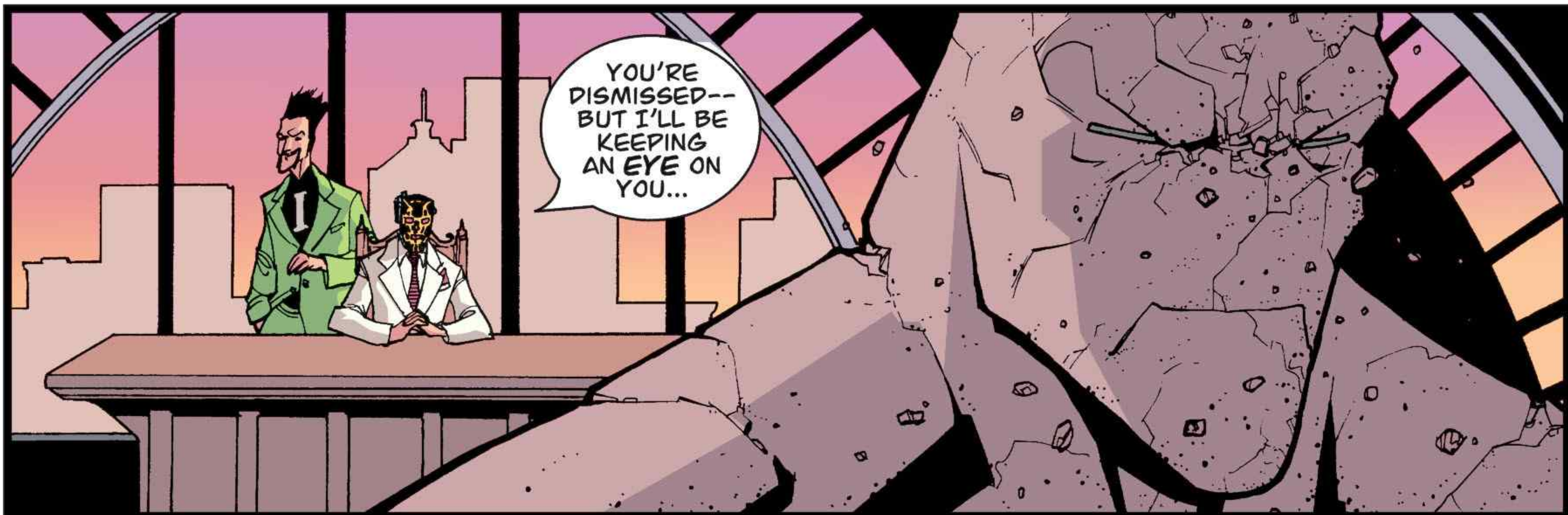


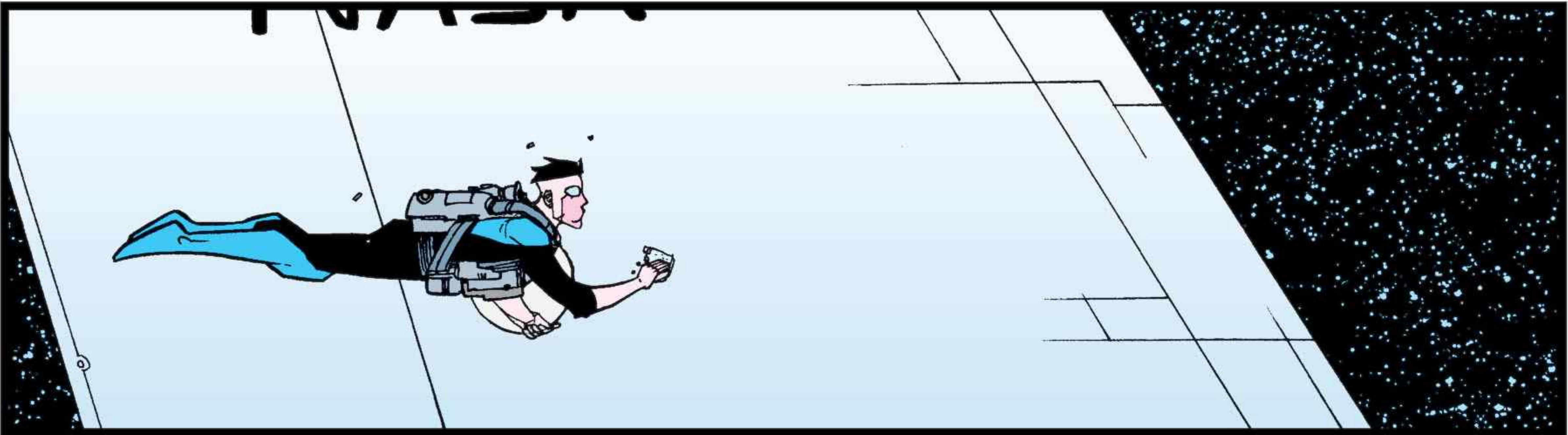
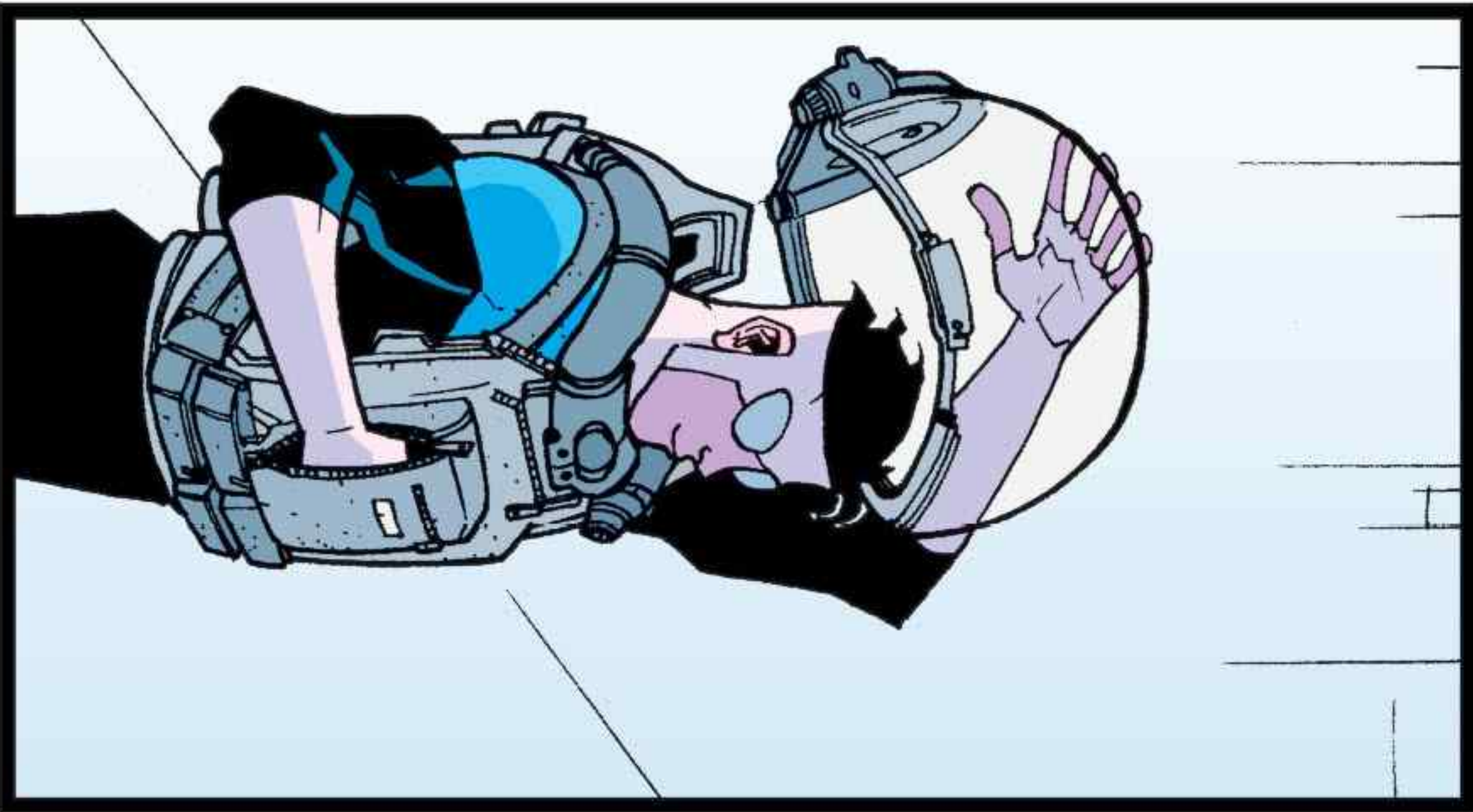
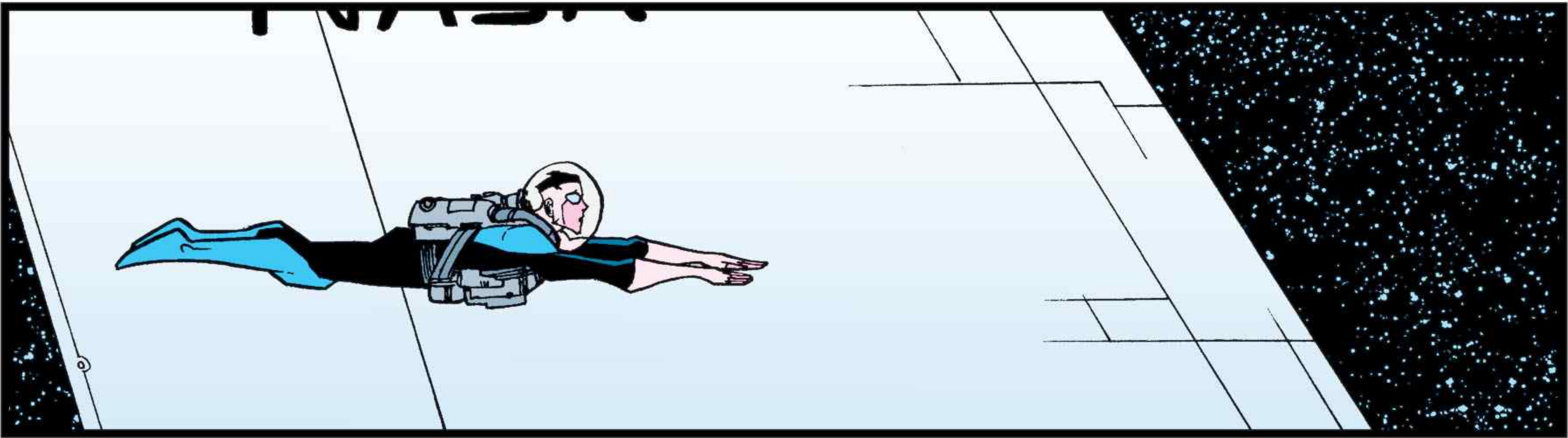


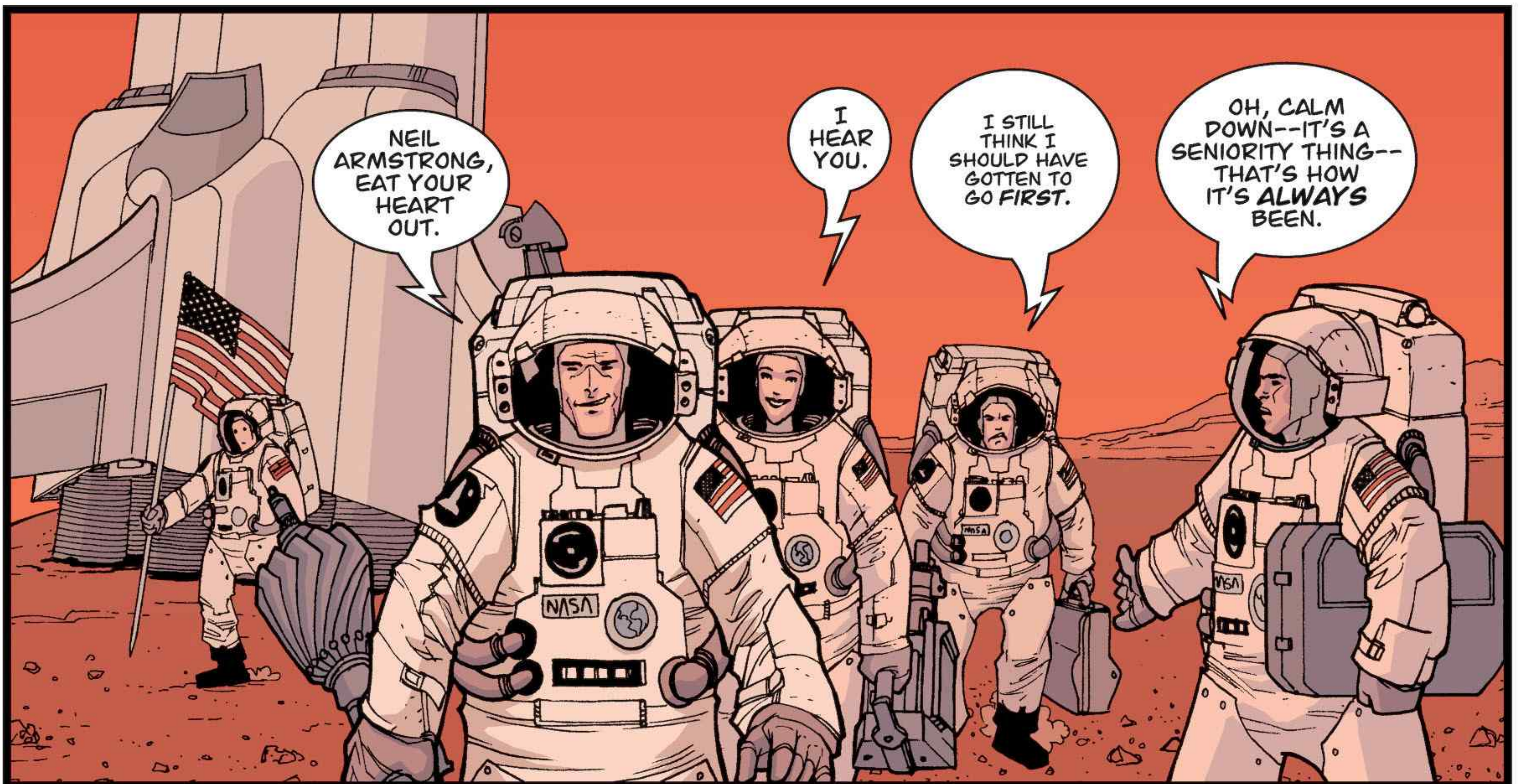


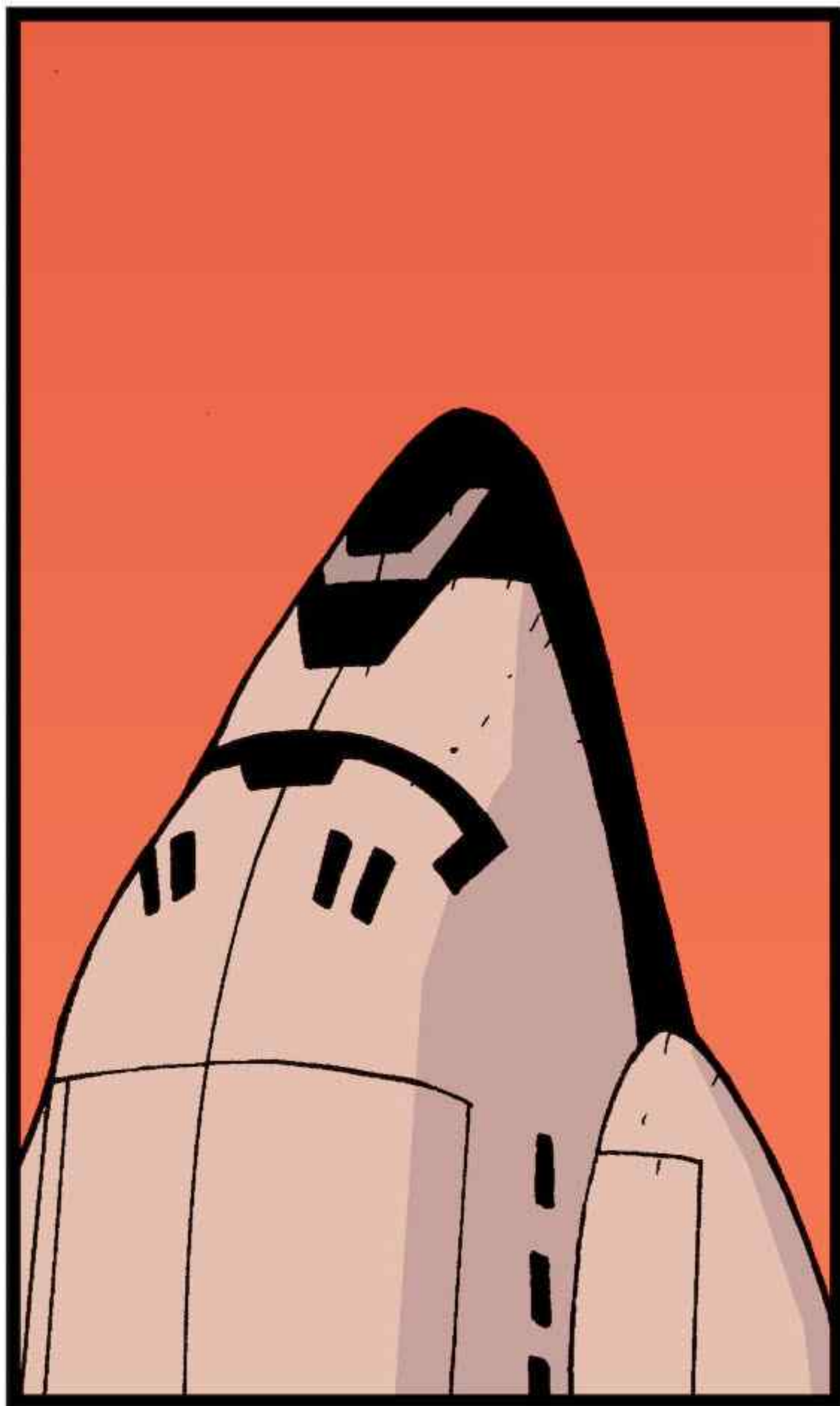
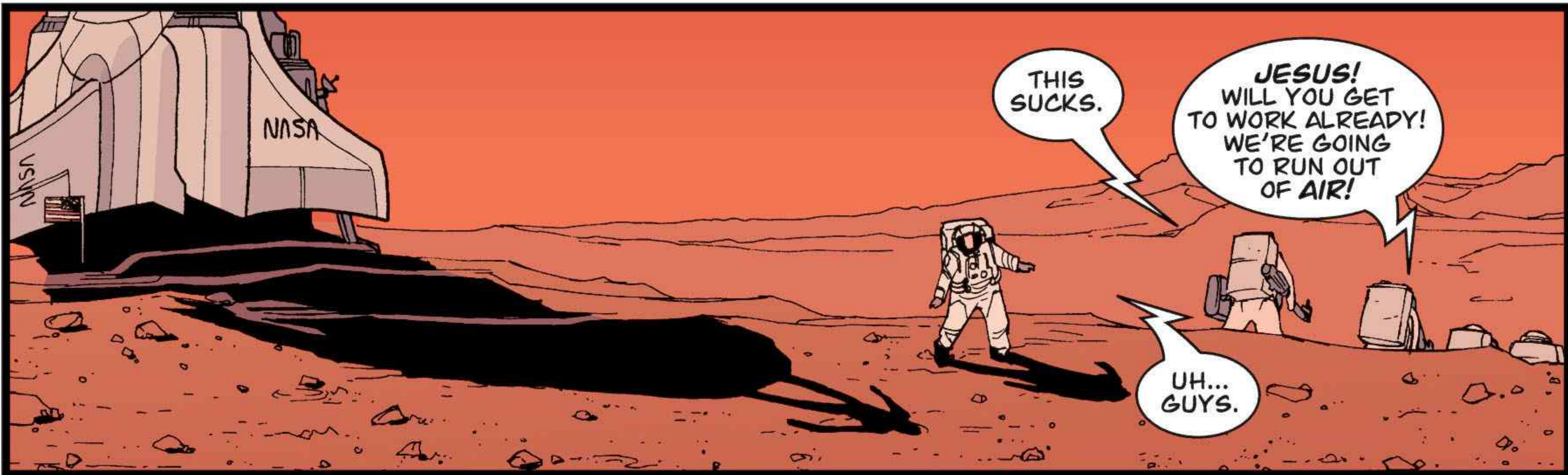


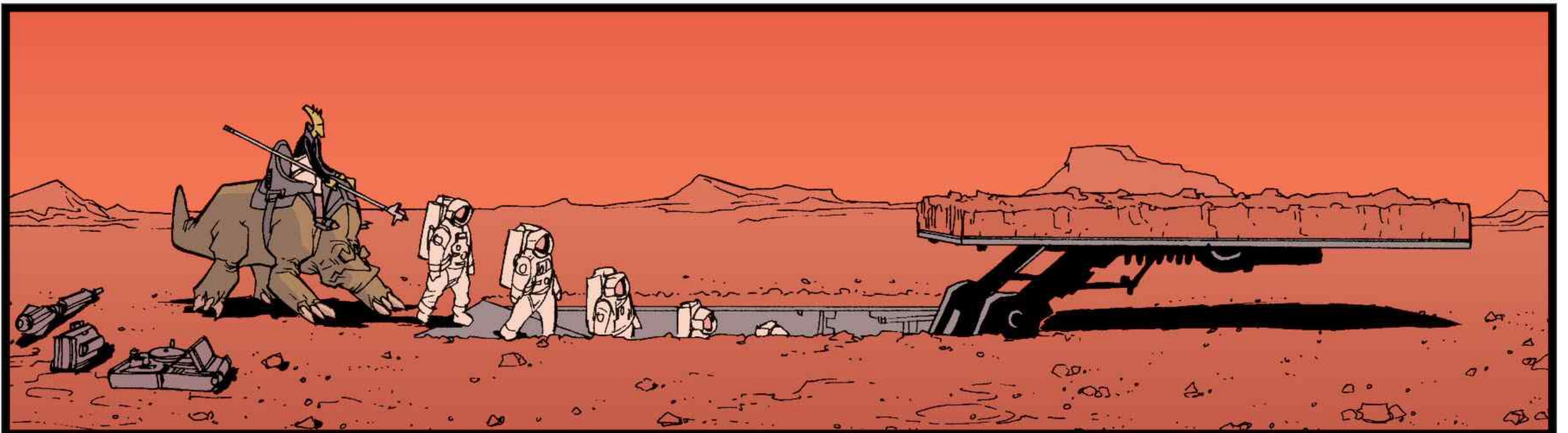
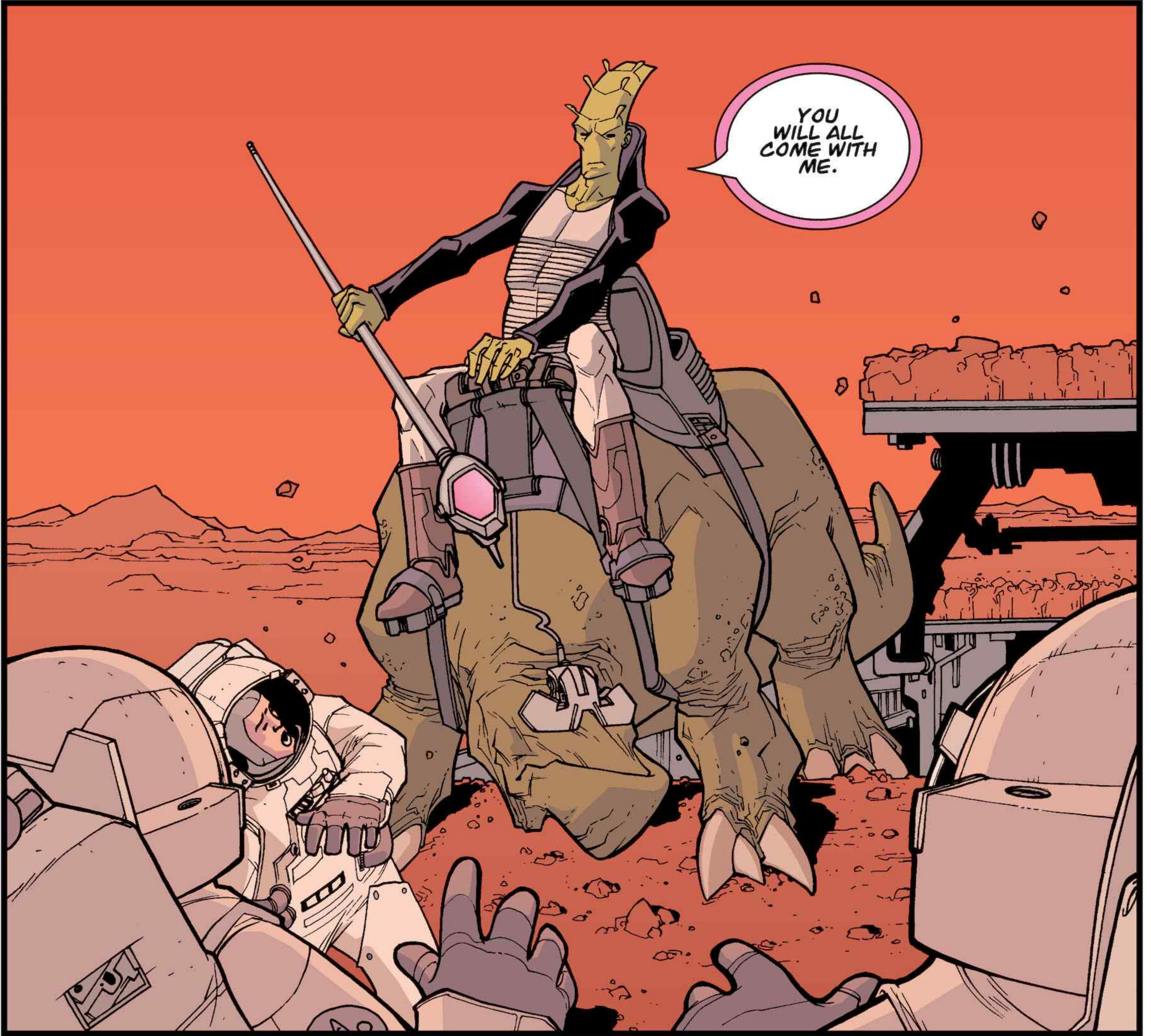


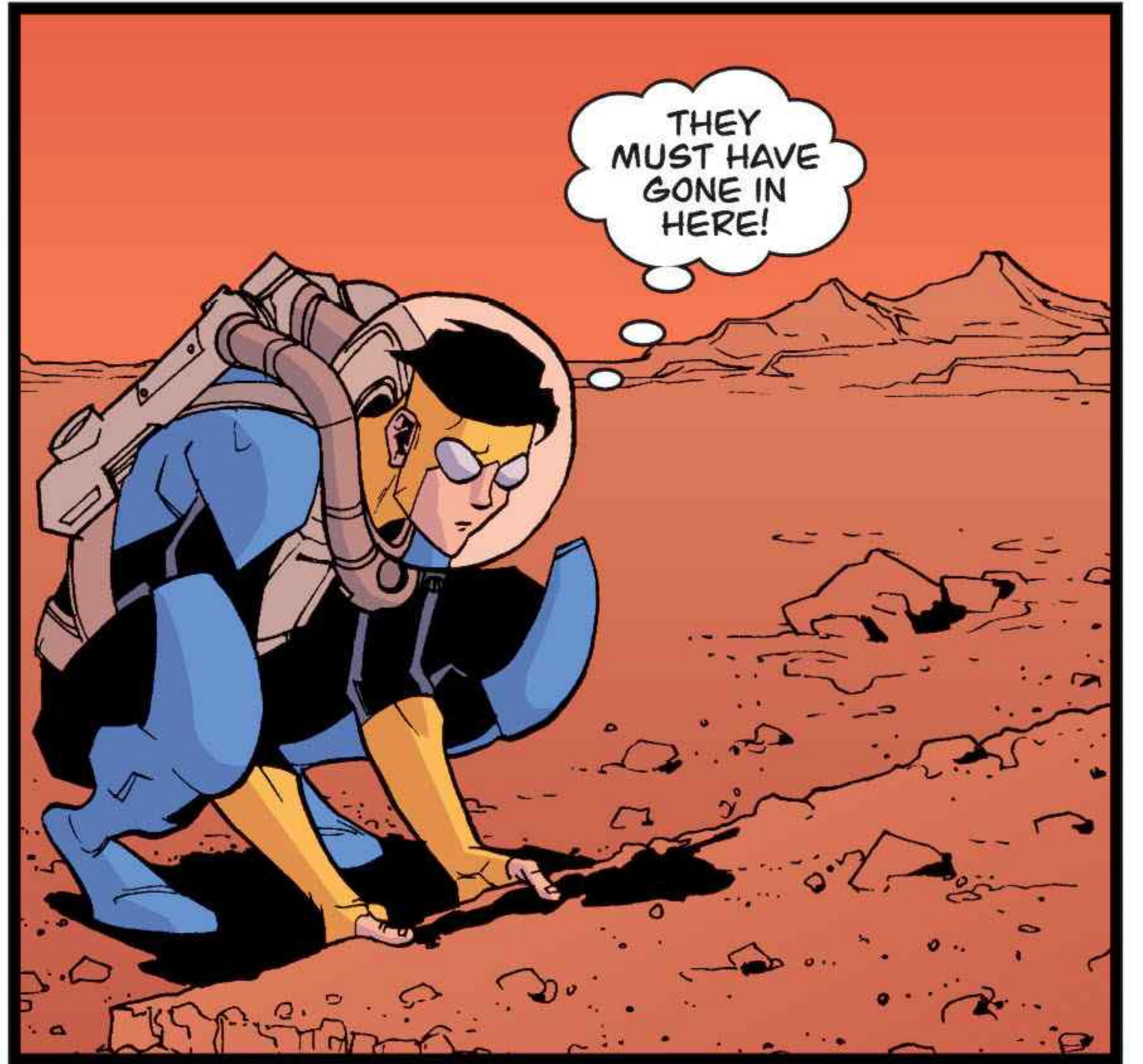


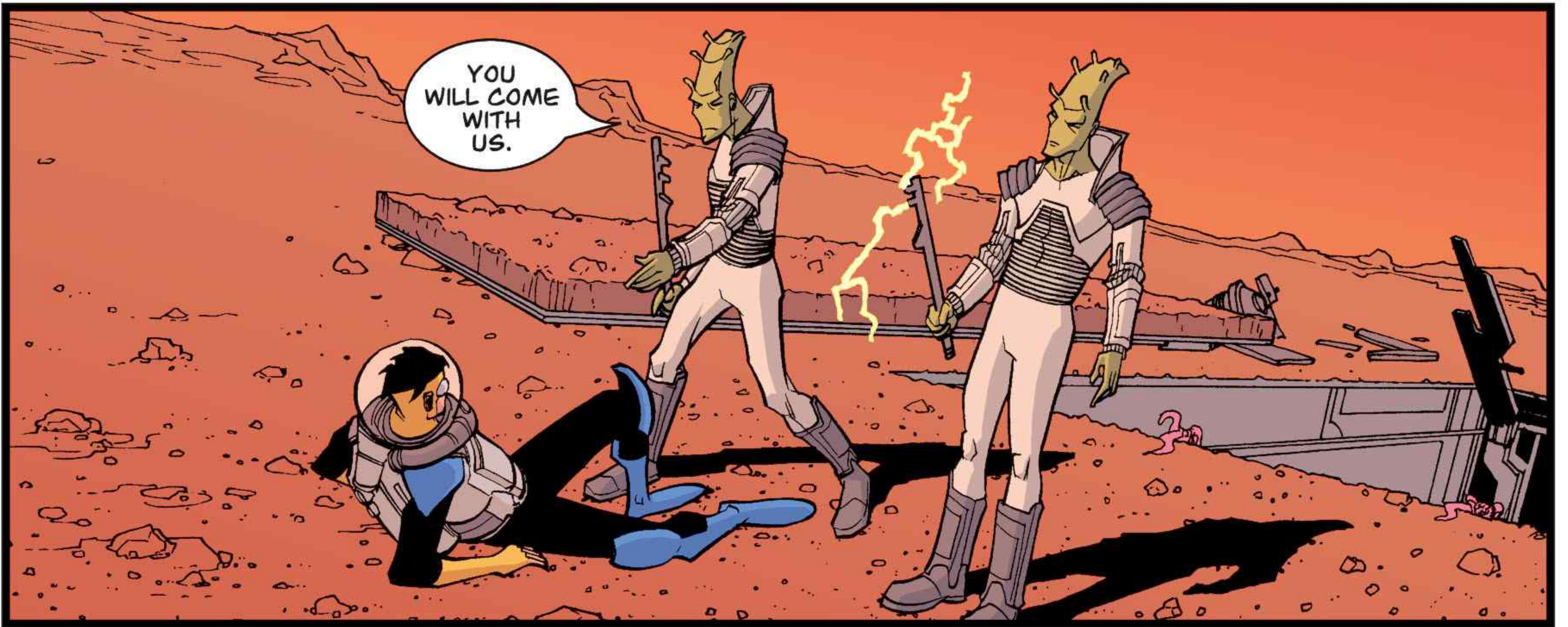
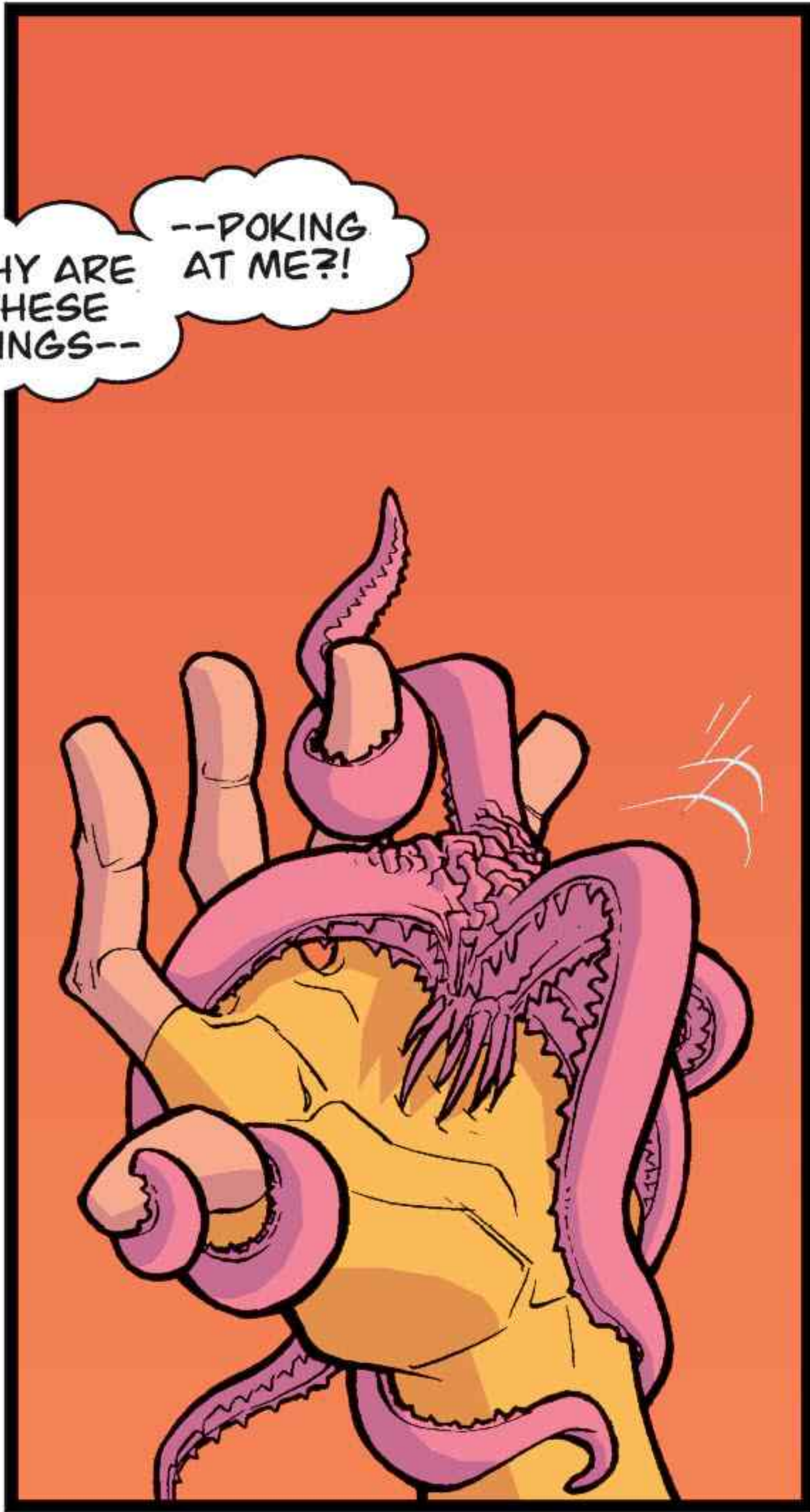


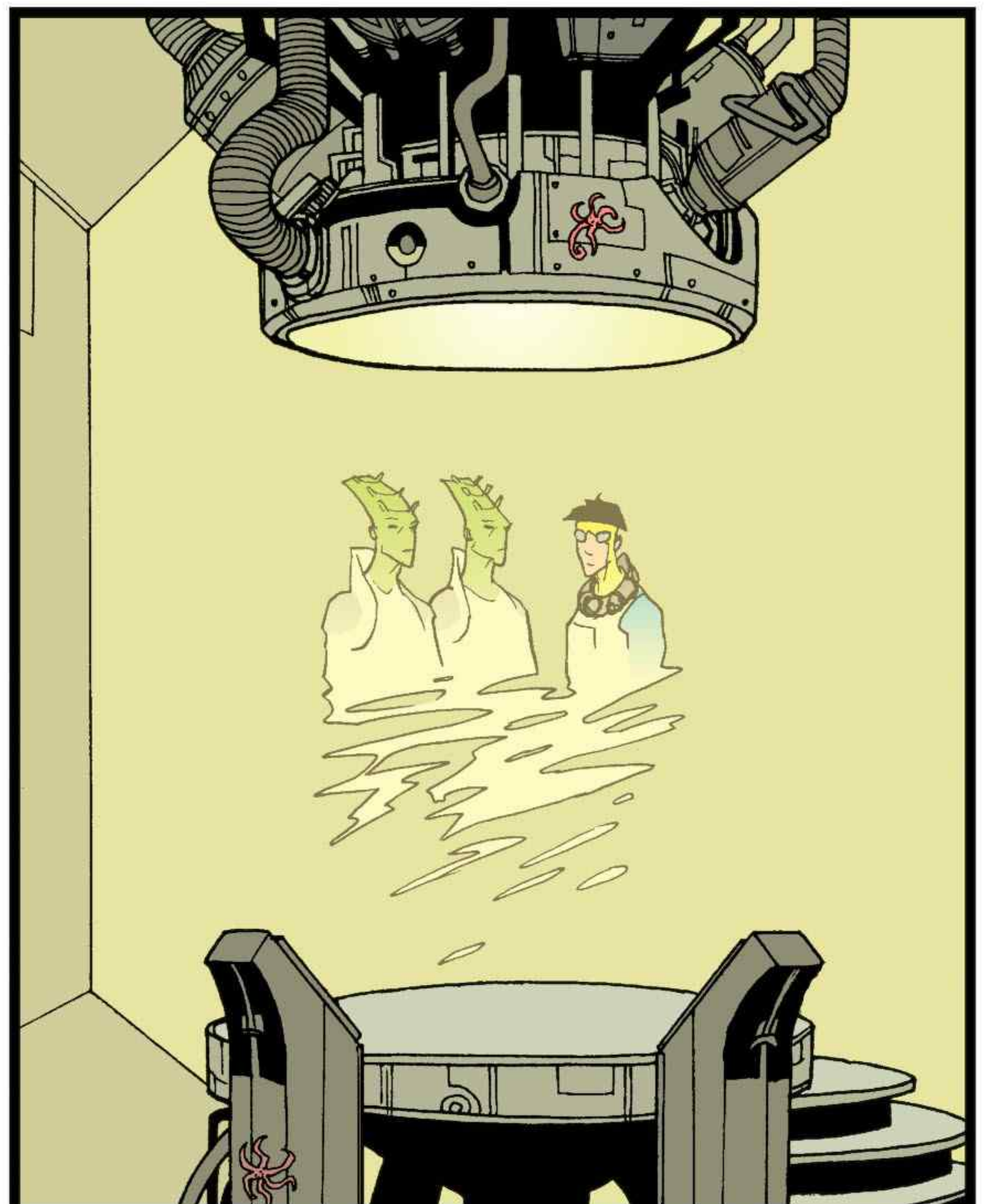
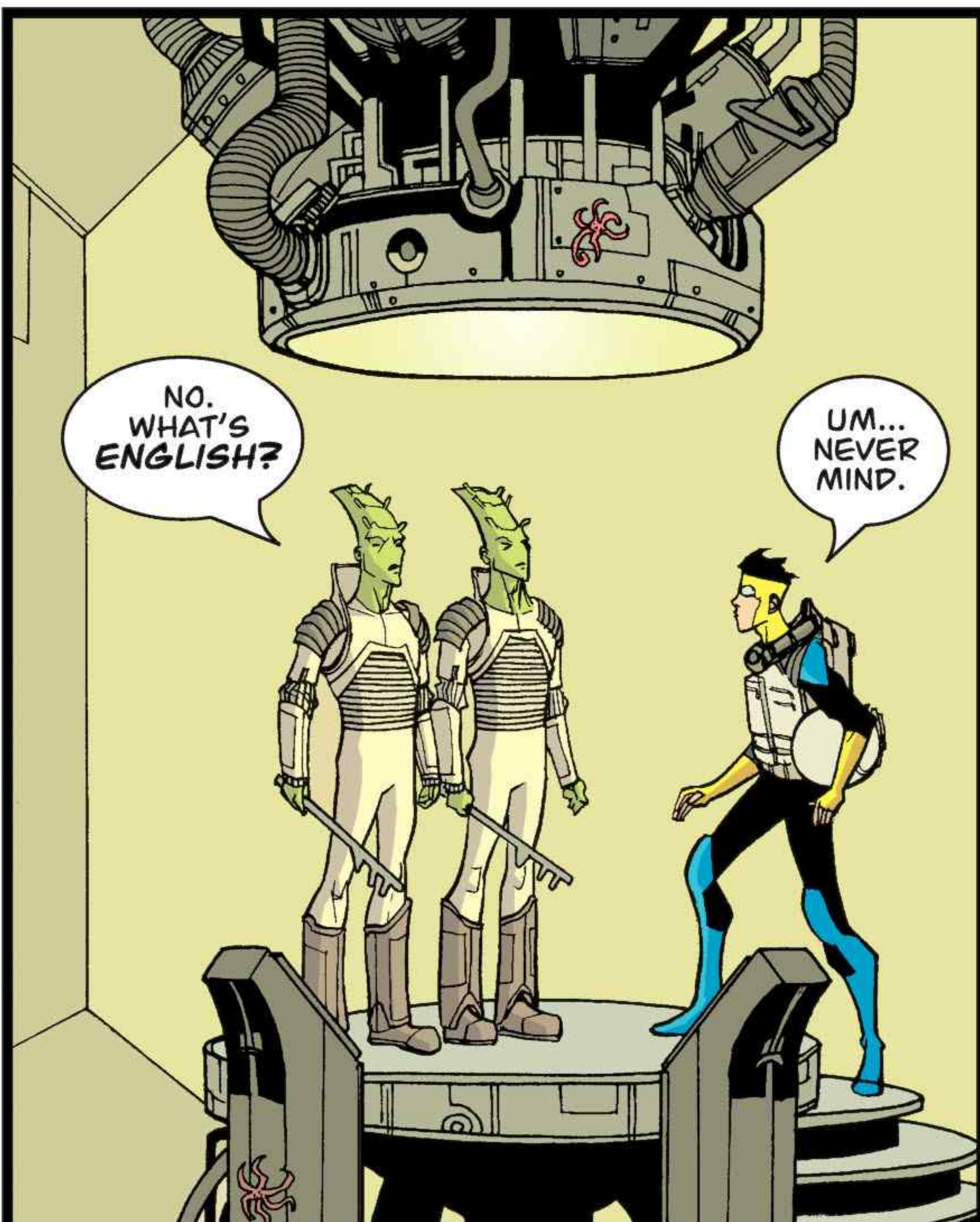
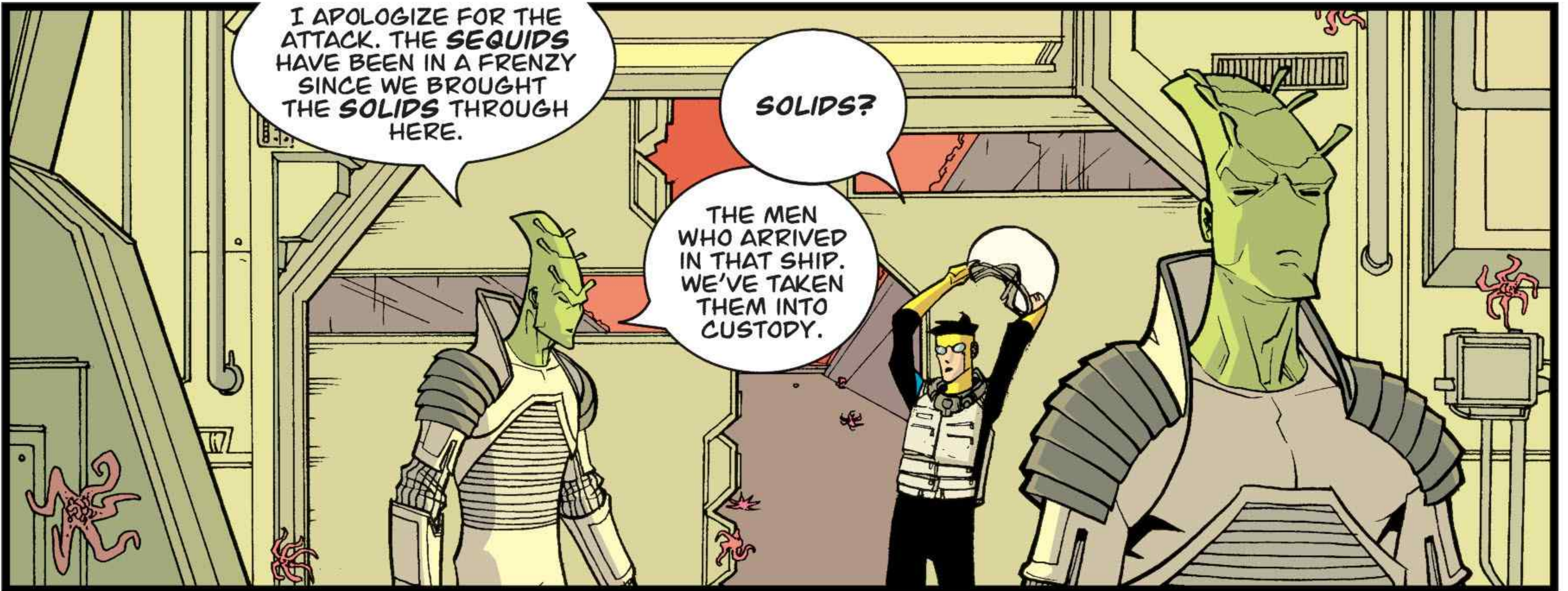


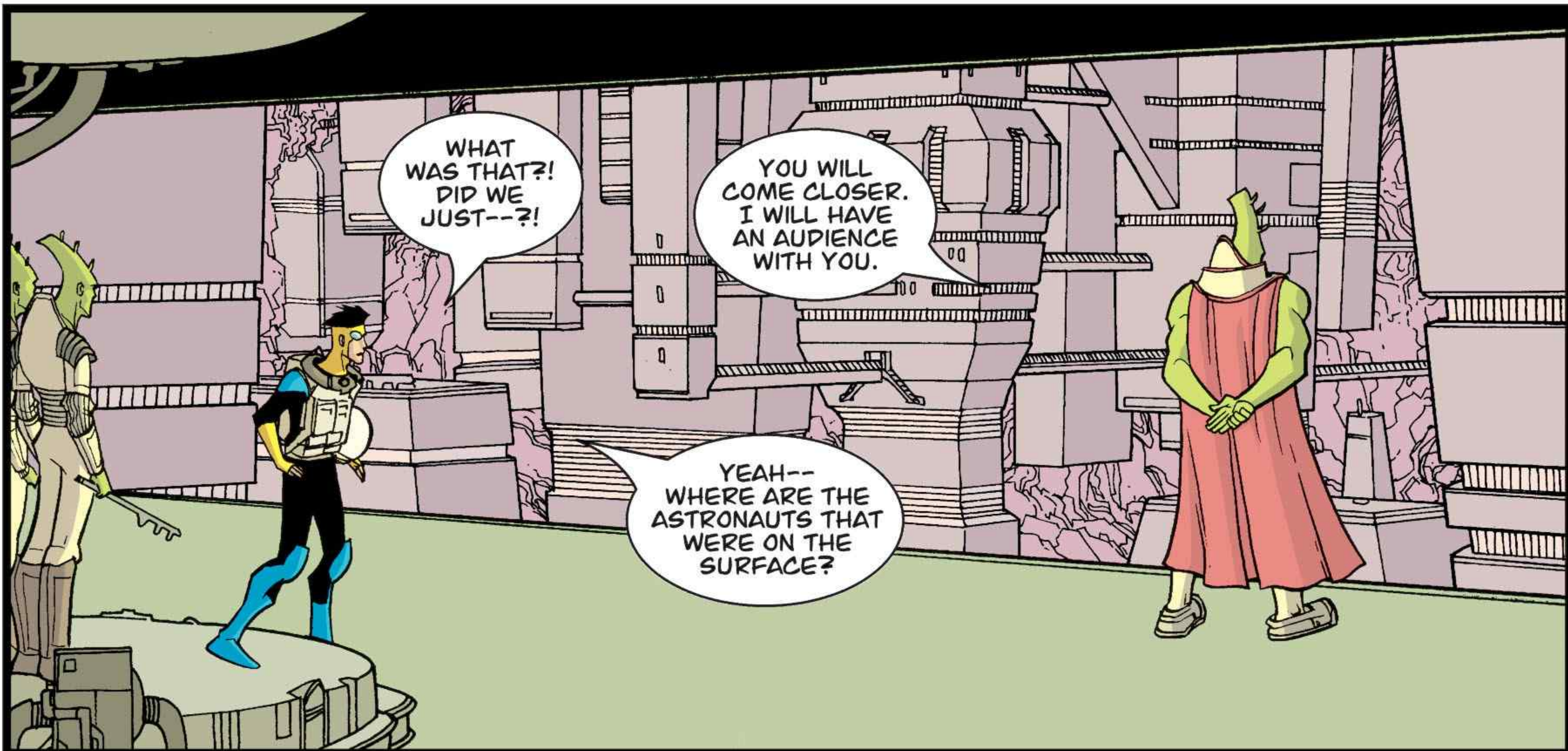








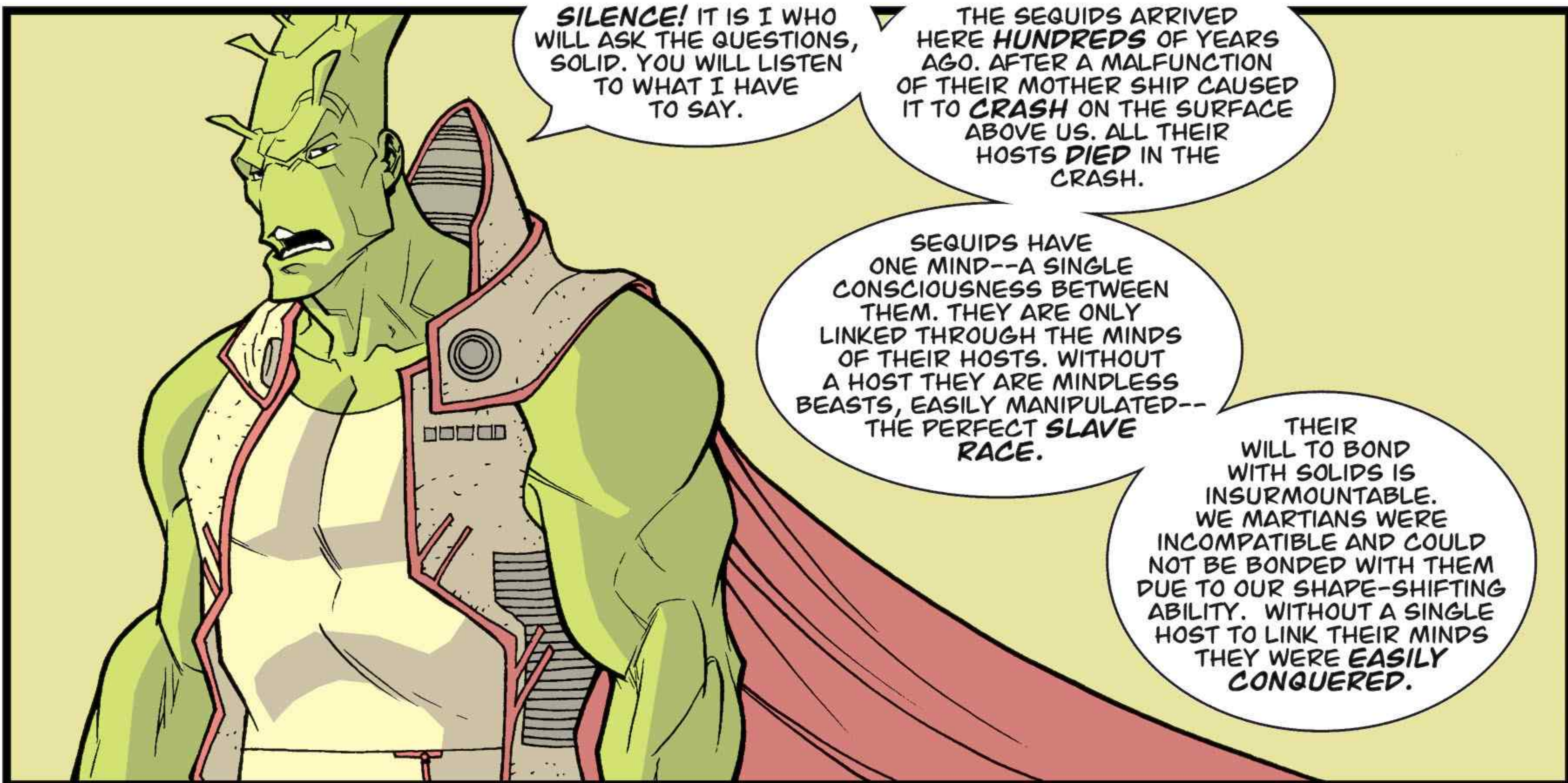




WHAT WAS THAT?! DID WE JUST--?!

YOU WILL COME CLOSER. I WILL HAVE AN AUDIENCE WITH YOU.

YEAH-- WHERE ARE THE ASTRONAUTS THAT WERE ON THE SURFACE?



SILENCE! IT IS I WHO WILL ASK THE QUESTIONS, SOLID. YOU WILL LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.

THE SEQUIDS ARRIVED HERE **HUNDREDS** OF YEARS AGO. AFTER A MALFUNCTION OF THEIR MOTHER SHIP CAUSED IT TO **CRASH** ON THE SURFACE ABOVE US. ALL THEIR HOSTS **DIED** IN THE CRASH.

SEQUIDS HAVE ONE MIND--A SINGLE CONSCIOUSNESS BETWEEN THEM. THEY ARE ONLY LINKED THROUGH THE MINDS OF THEIR HOSTS. WITHOUT A HOST THEY ARE MINDLESS BEASTS, EASILY MANIPULATED--THE PERFECT **SLAVE RACE**.

THEIR WILL TO BOND WITH SOLIDS IS INSURMOUNTABLE. WE MARTIANS WERE INCOMPATIBLE AND COULD NOT BE BONDED WITH THEM DUE TO OUR SHAPE-SHIFTING ABILITY. WITHOUT A SINGLE HOST TO LINK THEIR MINDS THEY WERE **EASILY CONQUERED**.

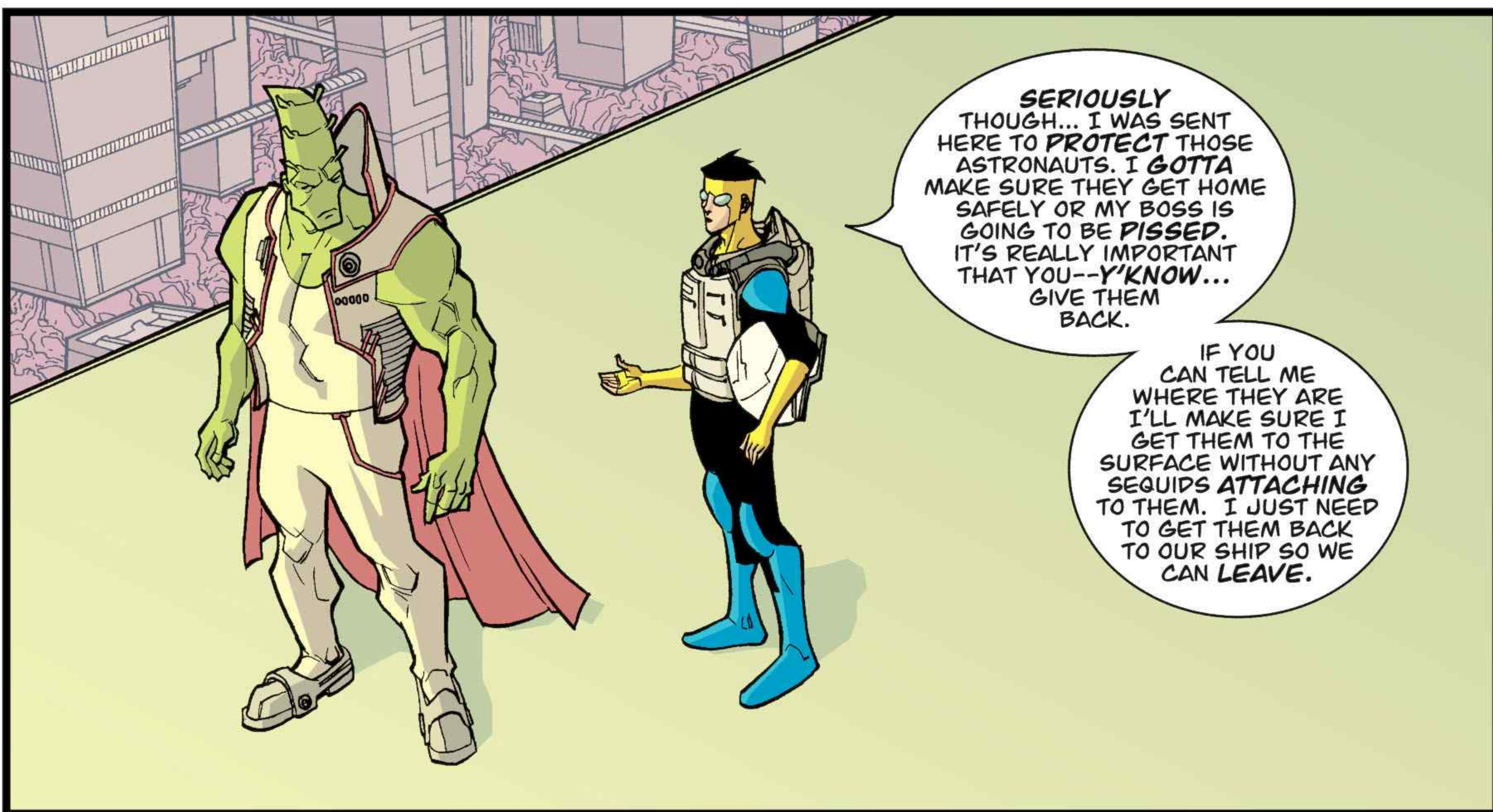


THEY HAVE EXISTED AS A SLAVE RACE FOR **CENTURIES**--ASSISTING US IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE. WE HAVE BEEN MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT IF EVEN **ONE** SOLID WERE TO BE FOUND ON OUR PLANET--IT COULD MEAN DOOM FOR US ALL.

WE HAVE BEEN BREEDING SEQUIDS, MAKING THEM STRONGER IN ORDER FOR THEM TO BETTER SERVE US. WERE THEY TO DISCOVER A HOST WHO COULD LINK THEIR MINDS I HAVE NO **DOUBT** THEY COULD OVERTHROW US ALMOST **INSTANTLY**.

WHICH IS WHY WE HAVE TAKEN YOUR "**AS-TRO-NOTS**" INTO CUSTODY, TO PREVENT THEM FROM BEING TAKEN OVER. **YOU**, THOUGH, ARE SOLID AS WELL--AND **RESISTED** THE SEQUIDS ATTEMPTS--YOUR SKIN COULD NOT BE PUNCTURED BY THEIR TENDRILS.

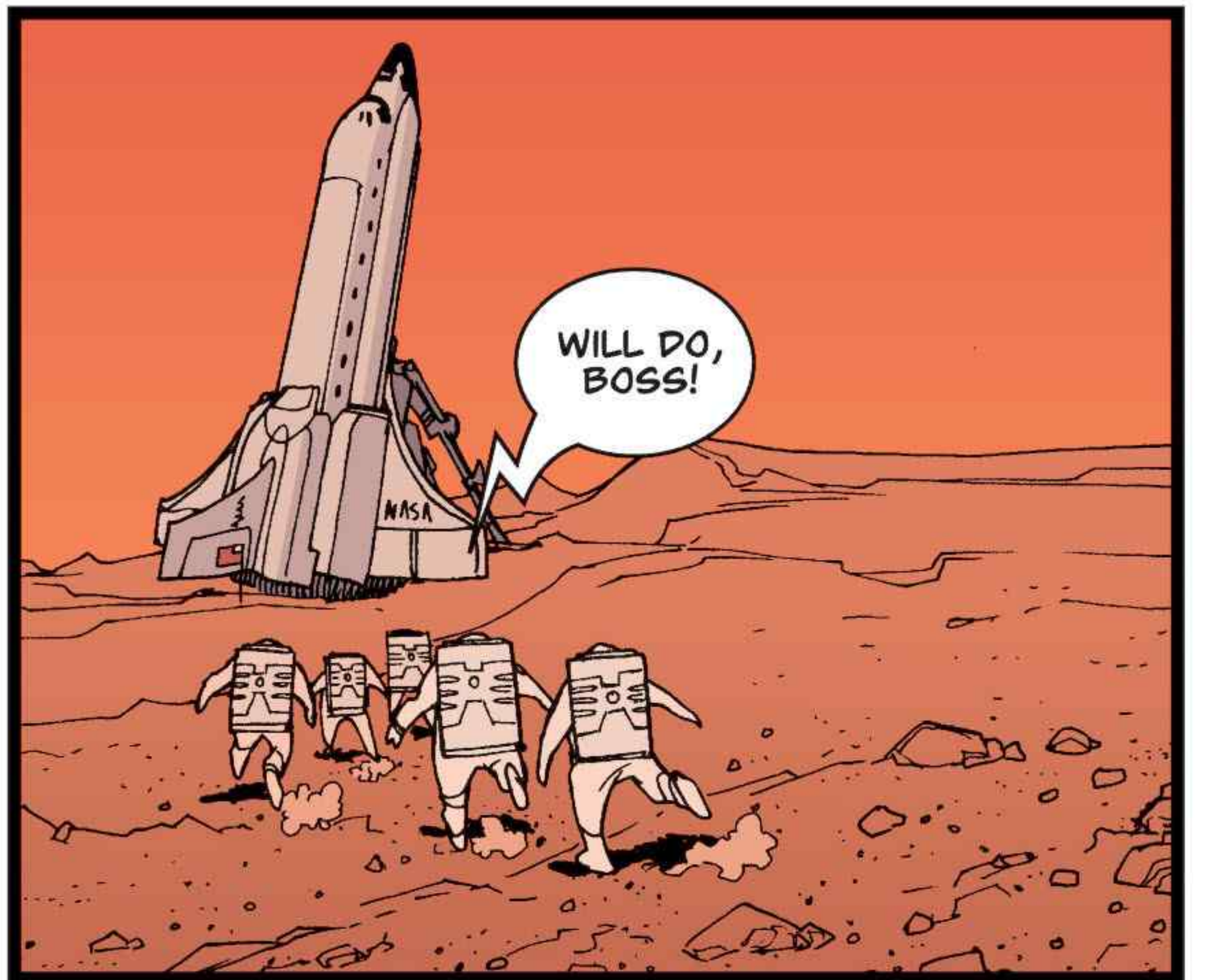
HOW IS THIS? **HOW** IS IT YOU WERE ABLE TO RESIST THEM?

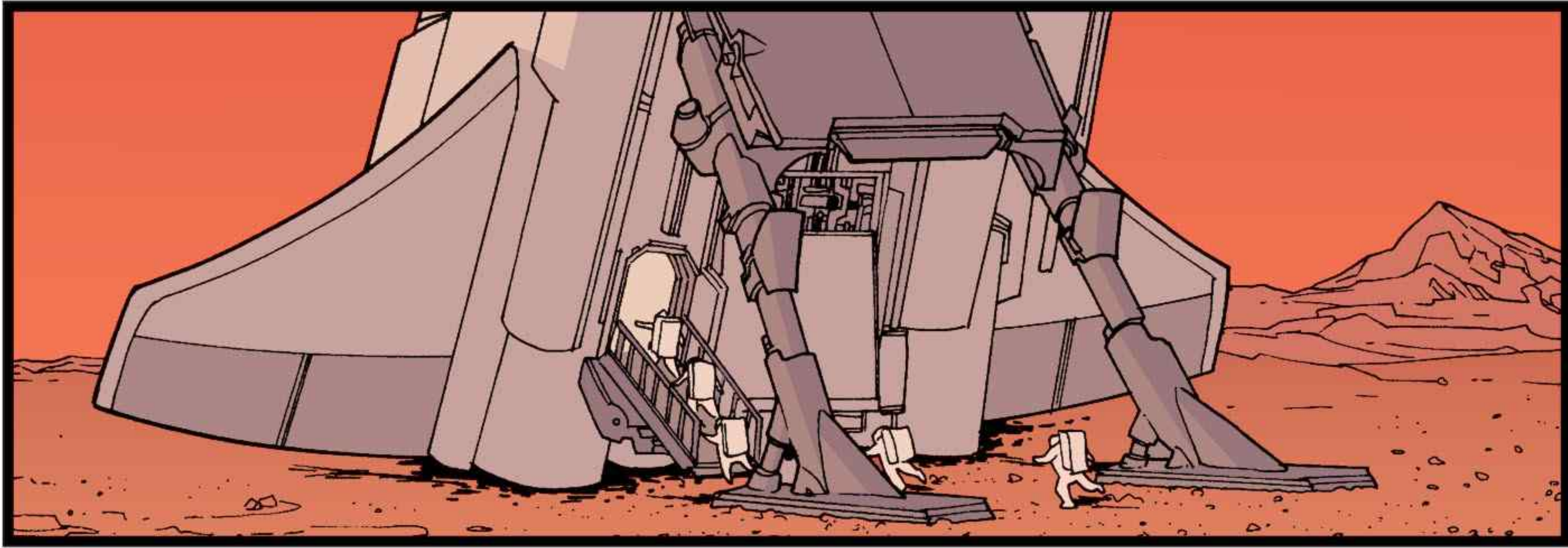


RUN!
RUN AS
FAST
AS YOU
CAN!!

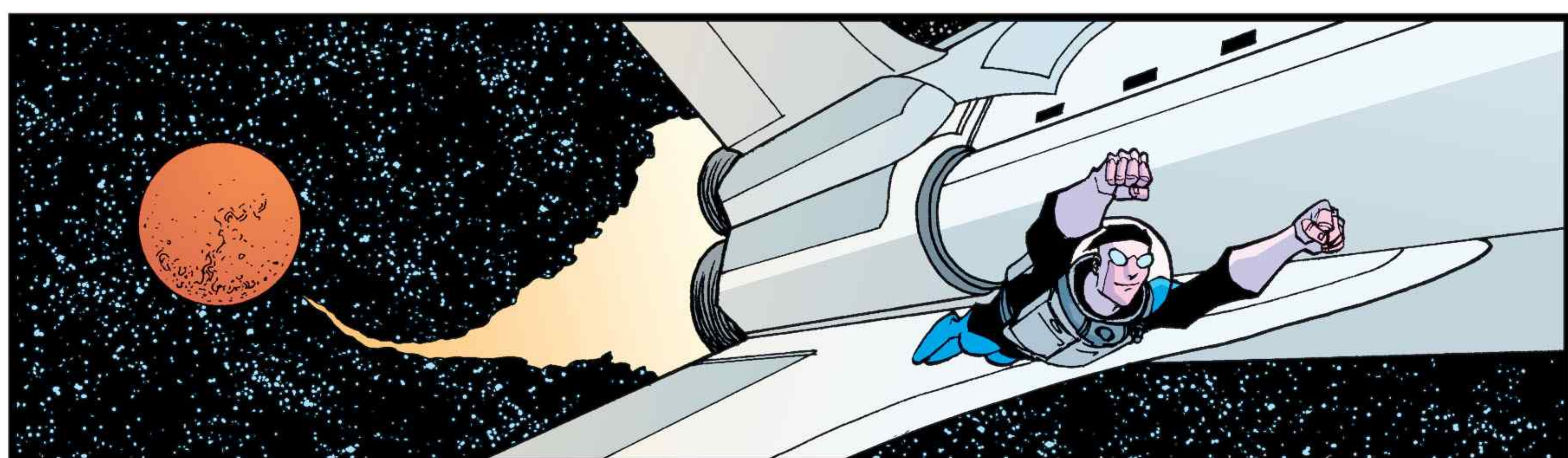
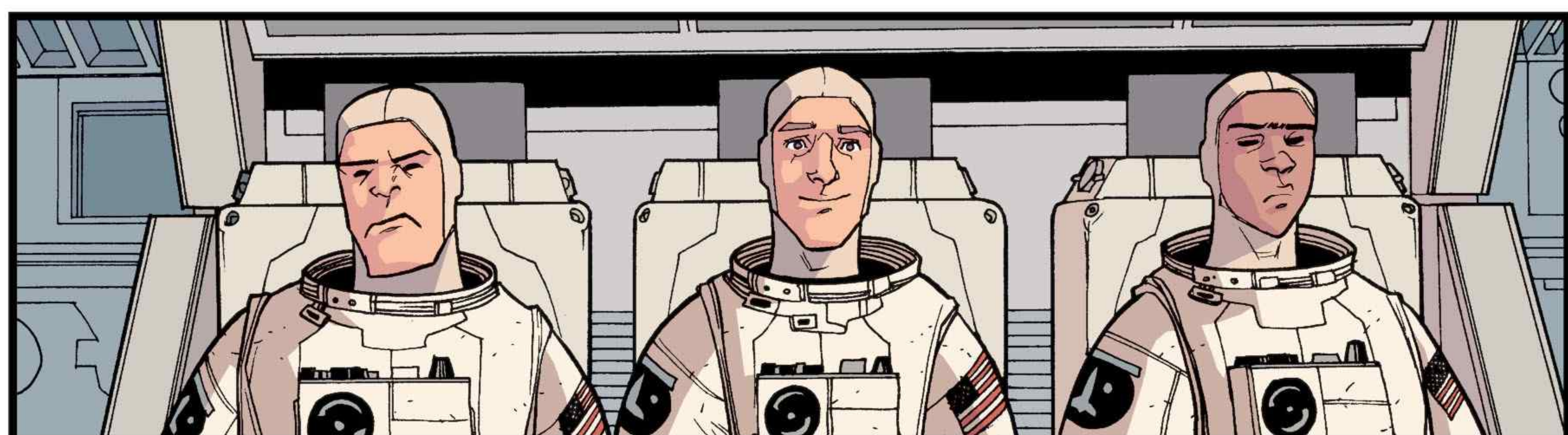
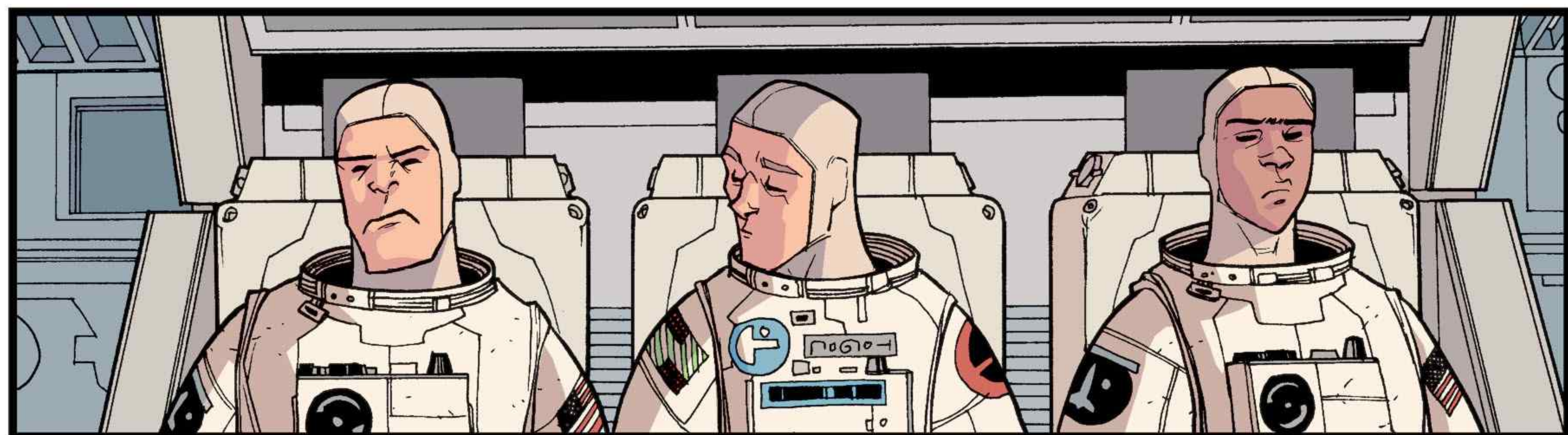
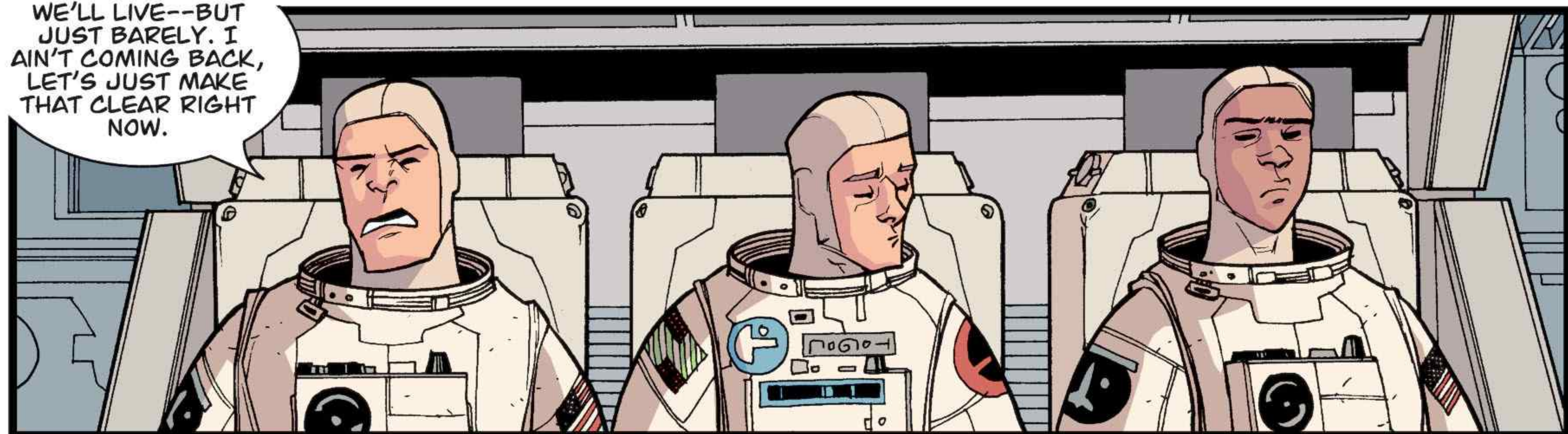
I'LL
HOLD
THEM
OFF!!

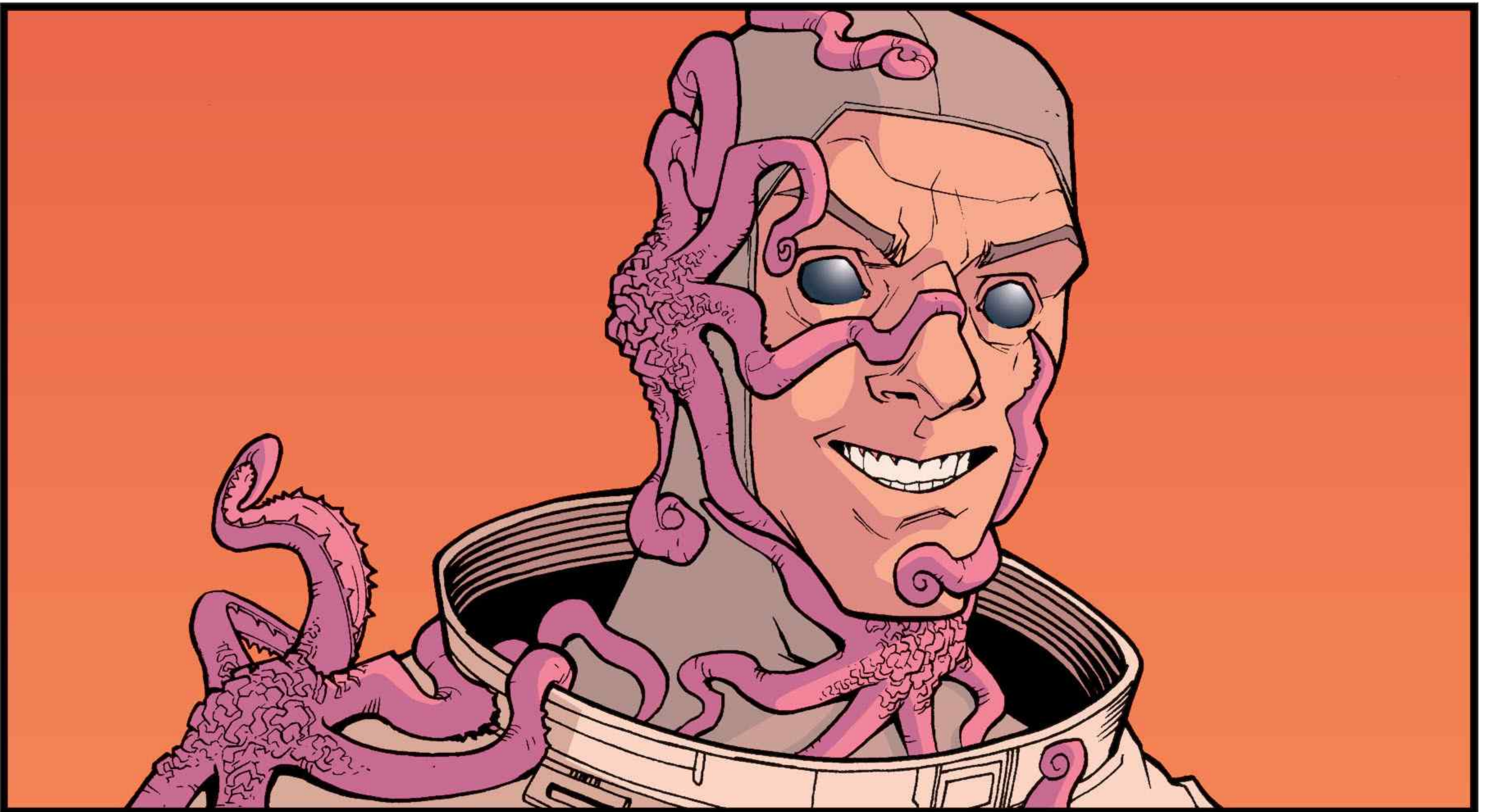
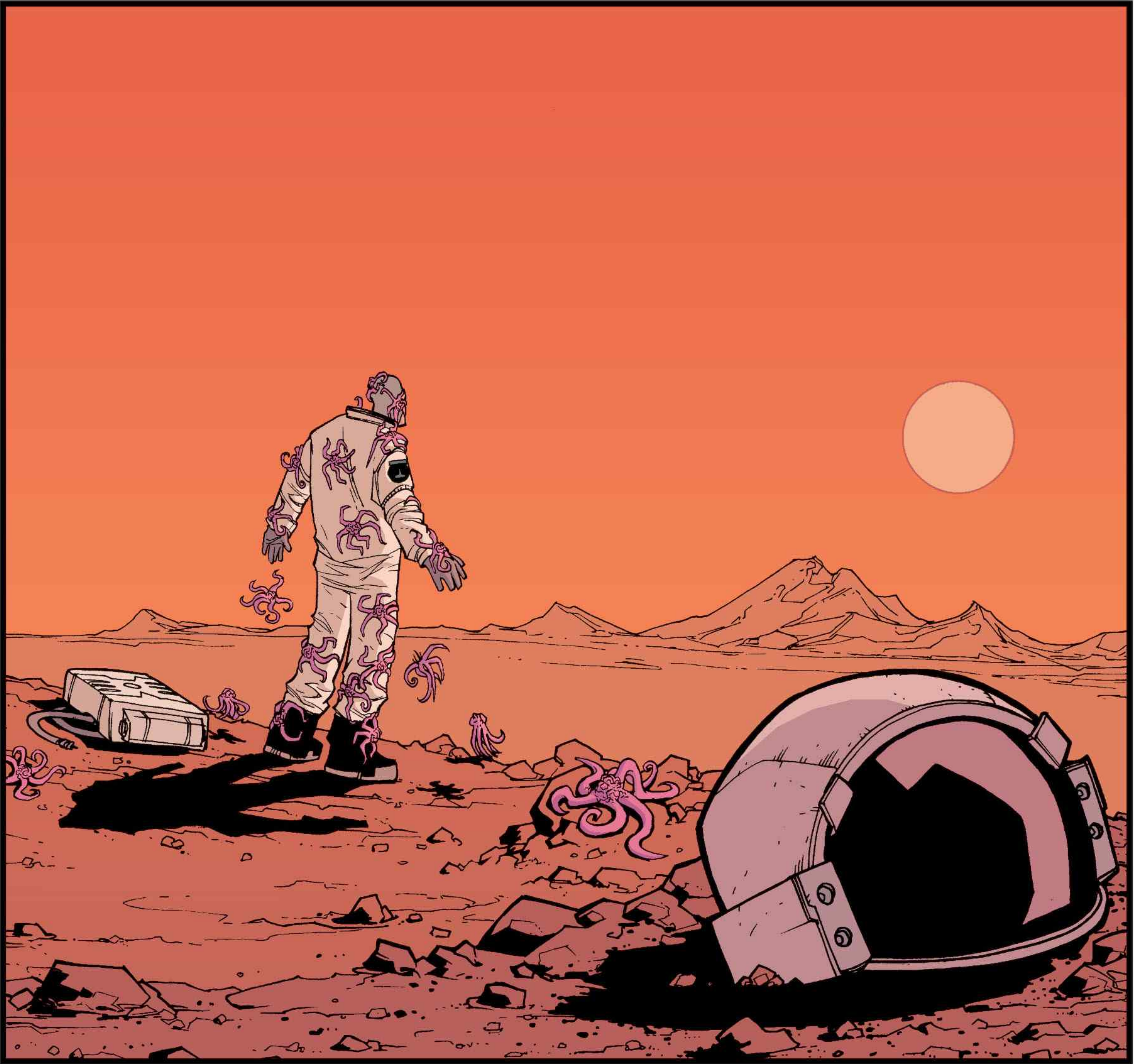






WE'LL LIVE--BUT
JUST BARELY. I
AIN'T COMING BACK,
LET'S JUST MAKE
THAT CLEAR RIGHT
NOW.





WRITE US @

INVINCIBLE
C/O FUNK-O-TRON
P.O. BOX 54386
LEXINGTON, KY 40555-4386.

INVINCIBLE@FUNKOTRON.COM

PENVINCIPALS

First off, I don't want to hear one complaint about SILENT pages or any of that crap with this issue. We gave you TWO WHOLE EXTRA PAGES in this issue, 24 instead of the usual 22, so you got more bang for your buck. Just like you did in issue 7, and I STILL get complaints that two of those pages were all stats. You ungrateful... oh, you know I love you guys--hence the extra pages.

Issue 18, man these things are just flying by now aren't they? If only we could get this thing on a liliittle better schedule. I mean, we're not doing as bad as some, but it's not perfect, so we're working on that. We changed printers with issue 17 and that threw a bit of a wrench in the schedule and with this issue, poor Rus Wooton's computer died, so we had to wait for him to get that fixed before the book could be lettered. Actually, as I write this I have no clue when this thing is coming out due to Rus's computer problems, so hopefully, you're reading this in early December and not 2005 or anything. Luckily 19 is being worked on as I type and things WILL be moving along from here on out. Bear with us, I think what's coming is worth the wait.

On a different note. Marvel Team-Up #1 has hit stores as I write this and the response so far is very positive. I hope that those of you who buy Invincible for it's straight up, no-nonsense super-heroness will give Marvel Team-Up a shot, because I'm having a blast working on the thing and Scott Kolins, Studio F, and our rotating band of letterers are all knocking this thing out of the park. So if you haven't, give it a shot. Read it in the store if you have to... but if you like it, do the right thing and buy the issue... it's only \$2.25 for pete's sake!

Lastly... a typo disclaimer. This thing is going to be full of typos... hell, this sentence probably has a few. I've barely got time to type these things let alone reread them, and they're do so last minute that I can't really get anyone to proofread them. I think for the most part it's still readable with the typos so I'm not too worried about it. But stop writing in and acting like you're discovered buried treasure by noticing the typos. I know they're there--everyone does. Just live with them, I do. I'd say almost 90% of readers (at least) don't even READ this thing, so I'm not really worried about it.

Now, let's answer some freakin' letters already. That's what you guys pay to see right?

Hey Robert,

This issue was great, as usual. I expected the first few pages to be revealed as a dream, until it continued going. Then I realized what you were doing with the alternate reality... and then I wondered if we were really back in the 'regular' reality with the invasion... all that in so few pages.

Luna Bros. pin-ups: awesome!

The Invinicipals rocked!! If I had more time, I would glue them to backing boards and cut them out, then possibly attach them to popsicle sticks to amuse myself and annoy others. Feel free to pass that idea along. I'm sure someone else probably already thought of it anyways.

I noticed "The Big One" was repeated almost right away, I believe -- I thought it was hilarious. And while I don't always read the letters pages, it's for a good reason: I'm probably trying to get this book more notice from people that should like it at the store I work at (Westfield Comics, Madison, Wisconsin).

Keep up the great work!

Would you like a copy of Territory 51 #1? I'd be more than happy to send you one.

~josh, reading Invincible since #1

I'm hoping in my car now so I can go out and buy some popsicle sticks.

Penvincipals-

Really enjoy the book. I find it well-written, smart, and great to look at. However, my question is not "when will we some hardcore nudity?" (unlike many comic readers, I have had sex). My question is "why does the book smell different than the rest"?

I don't know if you've noticed, but Invincible smells different than any other book on shelves. I assume it has something to do with the inks used in the printing process, but you never know.

Yes, I am high right now...from huffing issue 16 as I read it. By the way, I wouldn't be adverse to some hardcore nudity (who knows, maybe Atom Eve or Amber are really, really into Georgia O'Keeffe).

Noah Schuchman
Minneapolis, MN

Most of you probably aren't aware of this, but Cory Walker stepped down as artist on this book because he's got an allergic reaction to 100% of conventional deodorants. After years of smelling like a dirty onion sock Cory decided it was high time for him to get a lady. The only thing that worked as a deodorant that DIDN'T cause him to break out in hives (or something) was unbound, recently printed comic book pages. So he moved near where the printer is and now rubs his armpits on every page of every copy of Invincible printed. He's become quite addicted to it... so really, it's all he does every day. He kinda threw a wrench into that whole "getting a lady" thing. But he smells wet ink fresh--and the books, well, the books smell like crap.

And no, Noah--you sad pervert... this book will NEVER feature nudity. This book is supposed to be semi-all-ages... aside from the occasional gore scene... and what kid does like THOSE?

Dear PENvinciPALS,

Invinci-Pals!! Heh, nice back-up, really dug that one! Good job Nate! I'd SO buy a line of toys like that! Yet another awesome cover, this one by Ringo! You're really lining them up! Yet again, another issue nothing short of amazing. The start of it was insane! You never really think about another reality but it makes such perfect sense. And then the introduction of Angstrom Levy, very interesting. Wondering where that's going to lead to.

Robot seems to be getting a little closer to the edge, that should be good! And now The Immortal is heading up the G.O.T.G again, very sweet. One really cool thing I liked about the issue, was the fact that you touched up on the aftermath of a full scale invasion. Usually it's just left and taken care of in five minutes, but it was a good change to see how it affects the town and all the people! Nice touch.

1) I'm sure it'll happen a bit in the next few issues, but any plans on further exploring the alternate reality, mainly what Mark/Nolan combo is like?

2) What's Nolan been up to? Any chance of him rearing his head again soon?

S'about it for now, keep up the fantastic job! (You too Ryan, Bill, Rus, it's looking GREAT!)

Invincible-O-Holic
-Mike Storniolo

1) Doing it TOO much would get kind of confusing but we'll probably see some more alternate realities from time to time. Especially with Angstrom running around doing God knows what.

2) Man... you guys want me to give that up in a letters column? Is it THAT hard to wait until issue 50? SHEESH!

CRABTREE IS GOD.

Ottley and Walker are merely his earthly avatars!

-Adam

P.S. Why are you over at Marvel when you could be getting so much *less* money and exposure writing a Science Dog ongoing? It is your destiny!

P.P.S. On a serious note, regarding your future at Marvel, you are the only one who can replace Bendis on Daredevil. Word on the street is that we only get two more years of *the* epic, and you are the perfect person to kickoff the next chapter. Please please please leverage any success you have on your Marvel books into requesting the Daredevil gig, it is your destiny!

Bill, is that you? Man... one Harvey Award nomination and you have trouble fitting your head through doors. I would LOVE to follow Bendis on Daredevil--it'd be a tough act to follow but I think it'd be fun. I gotta say, I don't think I'd be MY first choice if I was in charge of making the decision. There's plenty of people who I think would do a better job--and I'd get to READ the book.

Dear PENvinciPALS,

I just got done reading Invincible #16, and I loved it!! I was a latecomer to Invincible, so I had to buy the first two TPBs and back issues of everything else until I had finally gotten everything (except for issue 12! I can't find it anywhere!). Invincible has, without a doubt, become one of my three favorite current comics. Invincible #16 continued in the long line of greatness that you, Cory, and Ryan have bestowed upon this wonderful book. The intro with Invincible and Omni-Man pulled me in immediately, and you didn't let go until I was finished! What with the Guardians of the Globe going up against another large-scale alien invasion, Robot's demotion, the Immortal's promotion, Titan--helping out?!?!, and a room full of Angstrom Levys, I barely had time to catch my breath by the time I was finished! Oh, and I LOVED the Invincipals! Hilarious!! Seriously, guys, keep up the great work, and I was glad to see in your recent Newsarama article that this comic isn't going anywhere, and rest assured I'll be along for the ride until the very end! Can't wait for the next issue!

And now, for a couple of questions:

1) I don't know if this has been asked before, but how the heck did Omni-Man have a secret ID? He didn't wear a mask, and was supposedly a famous author, so when the people who read his books looked on the back page of the book and saw his picture there with an "About the Author" blurb underneath it, wouldn't they say: "Hey--that looks just like Omni-Man!!??"

2) Will Omni-Man be returning anytime soon?

3) Wildguard artist Todd Nauck mentioned that he loves this comic. Any chance of getting him to do a cover or pinup??

Thanks in advance,
Rob Frenay
Syracuse, NY

1) Well, Omni-Man's face was never photographed. He never stuck around for press photos and was usually moving so fast any picture that was taken would be blurry. So nobody knows exactly what Omni-Man looks like, except for maybe a few people he saved. Also, he wasn't a very popular writer until after he died, he got by, but the Grayson's were NOT rich.

2) Not soon.

3) It's not out of the question. I LOVE Todd's work, and

have since he first started working in comics back in the '90s. Although, I kinda want Ryan to do all the covers for a while, he likes doing them and I like having him do them. I like the consistency of it all.

Hey Ryan, Bill, Rus...oh yeah & Robert

First off another great issue, really they just keep on getting better and better, the story and artwork is, as always, top notch. I must say though I loved the cover my Mike Wieringo that was a sweet treat for this issue. But you guys totally freaked me out! I thought I had missed some issue because when I opened up issue 16 and saw Invincible floating above some city telling everyone to cooperate and they won't be hurt I was pretty lost, I re-read the first six pages and I was still freaking out. What I did was stop reading 16 and went to find 15 thinking maybe I had missed something 'cause this opening came out of nowhere. I re-read 15 a couple of times and nothing lead up to what was happening in 16. So now I'm going crazy, "WHAT HAPPEN?!? HOW DID THIS COME TO BE?!? BANANA SPLIT?!? So without sounding like too much of an idiot (I'm guessing that's to late now) I stared to once again read 16 but this time all the way through and I see that it was just a different dimension. I don't remember this Angstrom guy showing up in any other issue so I'm guessing he's going to play a big part in the upcoming storyline. But what I thought was cool was seeing the war that was going down in Brit: Red, White, Black, & Blue showing up in these pages. That was a cool crossover like shout out to the people reading all your Image comics, too bad we didn't see Brit in this issue of Invincible, hopefully it can happen somewhere down the line. The true shocker for me was Cecil firing Robot and replacing him with Donald from the Brit comic. Could we be seeing a "Kirkman Crisis" crossover?!?! For all the books you've been working on lately it's great seeing the quality still riding high and I can't wait to see what you got planned for the next issue!

Keep the "Image" Books coming!
Joe Gatewood

The Immortal replaced Robot, not Donald... unless I REALLY screwed up. Sorry about the opening on issue 16. That was my "Star Trek" issue. All the BEST episodes of Star Trek (TNG & DS9 at least) start out in some confusing "what's going on?" kind of ways and it's always intriguing to find out just what happened to get to that point. So I thought I'd give it a shot. Sorry to make you think you missed something. Stay on your toes, I can't promise I won't ever do it again.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,
Well I must say that I have been very busy and have not had much time to get my comics. It kinda sucked but it was ok because my local comic shop had 2 issues of Invincible for me. I enjoyed them very much and I must say I think the story gets more and more entertaining each issue.

The stories are the most original I have read in a while. I really enjoy the way they are playing out. I am not sure about Angstrom Levy. Has he been in the book before? I don't think so but who knows. I guess he has the power to leap to other dimensions. Speaking of other dimensions, Mark being "evil" was an interesting twist.

I enjoyed the "invincipals" also, Scuba Invincible makes me laugh, the whole concept of the dress from issue 15 was great. "The Walking Dad" strip from issue 16 was funny as well, its good to see that some people still have their sense of humor.

Catch ya later,
Nathan Taler

P.S. Is it me or does the "Invasion" concept sound familiar?

People have done alien invasion's in comics before, yes. Hell, I've done if about four times in my various books. Five if you count The Walking Dead--oops, did I let that slip? Angstrom's first appearance was indeed issue 16, but we'll be seeing lots more from him in the issues to come. Especially 25-30... that's his big arc, jeez, I probably shouldn't have given THAT away either.

Dear Kirkman,
Banana split!!! Crap I missed it! Oh well, I'm sure you're printing this and getting me slightly amused nods from my comic store guy for getting another stupid letter published (Speeding Bullet Comics -Norman, OK!). Now you gotta print this. He just had a new baby (little girl named Audrey) and needs diaper money.

So what's the deal with Robot? Are we going to get some back-story on him? Who built him? When will he have his own action figure? He's so darn cute. Who would play him in the movie?

And look who's gettin all the press. This month's Wizard mentioned you like five times, you are writing a hundred books (one a third-tier X-book), and Newsarama keeps running your shameless self-promotions. By the way, it was cool how your Superpatriot book tied in with Invincible. Crossovers and cameos are cool. Just keep the Guardians of the Globe out of The Walking Dead. At least till issue 75...

Chris Pitts,
Oklahoma

There won't be any ROOM for the Guardians of the Globe in The Walking Dead after issue 75, y'know... because of all the aliens running around. The “deal” with Robot will be revealed eventually. You don't want me to give everything away all at once do you? I've got to save some good stuff for later y'know. I do plan to do some upcoming issues that just focus on the various side characters in the book to flesh them out a little.

Penvincipals,

No dancing around the room this time, i'm at the in-laws and I don't think it'd go down too well... But seriously, in the letters page at the back of Invincible #16 you expressed some concerns that no-one reads the letters pages, well I'd like to set the record straight by saying that I for one enjoy it nearly as much as the story that precedes it, (nearly, but not quite). With its gem-of-a-comic stories and art, funny back-up stuff, pin-ups, and a letters page that too few comics can boast nowadays, reading Invincible isn't just a great reading experience, its also kinda like being part of a community! I feel sorry for anyone who hasn't given it a try yet. And secondly I also think that there's more to Robot than meets the eye. Could his being sacked as leader of the Guardians prove to be the last straw?
This comic truly keeps me intrigued; i can't wait for the next issue... Or ten!

John Turner

Man you guys are really curious about this Robot guy. Heh.

Hey Robert,

I noticed a lot of other people started their letters that way, so I thought I should too. I think Invincible may be the best superhero comic on the market today, and I thank you and the talented people you've surrounded yourself with for it. May I ask a few questions? Beside that one I mean. I'm going to assume you said, "Sure."

- 1) Invincible action figures.. what are the chances?
- 2) What's the deal with Damian Darkblood.. how long before you get sued?
- 3) Why is Bulletproof wearing one of Mark's old costumes?
- 4) Will there be more Invincipals? I sincerely hope so.
- 5) Is it just me or does the Invincible pin-up by Jonathon Luna make it look like Tom Welling (of Smallville) would be a good choice for playing Mark should a movie ever be made?

That's all I've got for now. I thank you for your time and for keeping the letters column alive.

Chris Haley

- 1) **No plans yet, but I'd love for there to be some.**
- 2) **For what?**
- 3) **Art sold it to him. He doesn't throw anything away. Keep in mind, Mark just tried it on.**
- 4) **Nate plans to do more as we introduce more characters into the book. So there should be more.**
- 5) **That guy's too pretty.**

Hey Rob,

Good golly, Miss Molly. #16 was my favorite issue so far. Gigantic superhero-alien invader brawl, alternate reality, and catching up with most of the books' characters, and Robot moves one step closer to the edge of robo-insanity. This book is my god, and I will sacrifice a lamb to it on the first Wednesday of every month.

The Invincipals were bloody brilliant--they really showcased how amazing a lot of the costume designs are! They made me go back through the back issues and check out the characters again. Doc Seismic is a friggin' stroke of genius. Great stuff, but they left me wanting Invincible merchandise. Little PVC Invincipals, I say!

David Cutler
Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada

Yeah--Doc Seismic WAS cool, I'll have to bring that guy back someday.

Can you please try to get marvel to sign you up to write The New Warriors I think you would be awesome with Nova and the gang!!! Please, I think it would be awesome if you had sleepwalker join the group even madcap, man I thought I was the only one who liked those guys, don't know if anyone likes madcap but you can make em :) please put them in a issue of team-up sometime I miss those guys--- you want to print this fact in an issue of Invincible I would be praised by geeks at the comic store:)------print this----->Fact: I am responsible for getting over 20 people Hooked on Invincible!!!

Rob Steal

Man... I don't even know who Madcap is. My pals Zeb Wells and Skottie Young are doing a new New Warriors book. It's one of the worst kept secrets in comics. I think they'll do a good job, even though I almost punched Skottie Young in Baltimore when he replied “Well, I at LEAST gotta change that HELMET” when I asked him if he was going to be redesigned Nova. Nova is perfect as is, kids. Skottie, don't change that friggin' helmet.

And that's all she wrote--or well, all you wrote folks... or at least, that's all I'm printing. Go home. There's nothing to see here.

In the back this month we've got a couple of really cool pin-ups. The first one is drawn Franchesco and colored by Animation. Franchesco is hard at work on a She-Dragon one-shot that should be in stores in March. It's going to be written by Erik Larsen himself, so you know it'll be cool. Check it out, I've seen some of the pages it's looking great. Our second pin-up is penciled by 1999 winner of the coolest name ever contest, Wesley Gunn, with inks by Marc Deering and color by Brad Silverman. Give all these guys a nice round of applause.

After that we've got another one of those back-ups by Benito and Nate. This one's a continuing epic so be sure to be back here next month to find out where it's all going. I'm willing to be most of you aren't expecting it... or y'know... care (zing!).

No four seats left this month. Jason Latour is hard at work on Expatriate, his new book with B. Clay Moore. This thing should be debuting in February if I'm not mistaken and Clay has told me all about what they've got planned for the series and it's one of those “man I wish I had thought of that” things. It's also Clay's first ongoing series, so if you like what he's done in Hawaiian Dick and Battle Hymn (which will probably be out by the time this issue is) you'll have to check this thing out to see what Clay can do long term. Oh, and Latour's art is so freakin awesome on this thing you guys will be blown away. So if you're into being blown away... check out Expatriate in February.

Oh, and sorry the type on the letters column last month was so small. We had to make room for all those swell Cory Walker pin-ups.

That's all I got. Later.

-Robert Kirkman

This month’s pin-ups by:
1. Franchesco!
2. Wesley Gunn, Mark Deering and Brad Silverman





W. BUNN
- 2004 -

MARCO SILVERMAN

INVINCIBLE

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